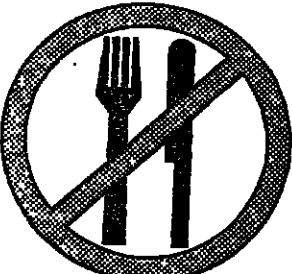


THE TIMES Tomorrow

Eat...
The spectre at the feast: is cholesterol the killer we are led to believe?



... your hat
Fashion Page says hats off to London's milliners
Up...
Danger in the skies: Trevor Fishlock on the increasing hazards of flying in the US
... and under
Gerald Davies reports from Swansea as the Barbarians end their Easter rugby tour of Wales

UK drive to cut Europe air fares

Britain is to launch an attack on high air fares in Europe and on restrictive practices by state airlines which Britain believes to be in contravention of the Treaty of Rome. The proposals aim to open up internal routes to other state airlines. Page 3

Reagan takes a slow boat

President Reagan set out for China, taking a restful four-day route through Hawaii and Guam. He is expected to find Chinese leaders share his concern about Soviet military expansion in the Pacific Basin. Page 4

Pay peace hope

The National Union of Teachers may drop its threatened industrial action if the employers raise their pay offer to 4.5 per cent, as expected. Page 2

Priest shot dead

A Hindu priest was shot dead in Punjab as militant Sikhs and Hindus set their terms for resuming talks with the Government. Page 6

Safe drug drive

Doctors are being asked by the BMA to prescribe only British licensed drugs to ensure that patients do not receive cheap imported products which may have dangerous variations. Page 3

Papal attack

The Pope, in his Easter Sunday address to 35,000 people in St Peter's Square, denounced torture and terrorism, "destructive means of war" and world hunger. Page 4

No-strike offer

Japanese and United States electronics companies are to be offered no-strike agreements in a union's effort to win up to 30,000 new members. Page 2

33 miners die

The toll in Saturday's methane explosion at a Yugoslav coal mine rose to 33, after two more bodies were found. Page 4

Budd's next run

Zola Budd runs in a specially arranged race over 1,500 metres at Crystal Palace on Wednesday to enable her to qualify for the UK Championships next month. Page 14

16 racecards

With 16 meetings, plus the French 2000 Guineas and Irish Grand National, today is the busiest racing day of the year. Pages 15-17

Leader page, 11
Letters: On oil revenues, from Lord Kador; rural elderly, from Mr D R B Thompson and others; seal hunt boycott, from the Bishop of Quebec.
Leading articles: Libya: Inner cities. Dissidents. Features, pages 8-10
Nato: basics that won't go away; South Africa's new enemy No 1: tactical setbacks in the toy cupboard. Spectrum: Lillibet, a royal progress in verse. Monday Page: two hopefuls Zola Budd may have pipped.
Obituary, page 12
Professor G. B. Caird. Mabel Mercer

Home News	2-4	Religion	12
Overseas	4-6	Science	12-17
Arts	12	Sport	13-17
Books	7	TV & Radio	19
Crossword	12	Theatre, etc	19
Diary	10	Universities	20
Prem Bonds	20	Weather	20
		Wills	20

Diplomatic relations with Gaddafi severed

Libyans given week to leave Britain

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has broken off diplomatic relations with Libya and has ordered all diplomats and other people inside the Libyan People's Bureau out of the country within seven days.

The Libyan Government was told last night that Mr Oliver Miles, the British Ambassador, and his staff in Tripoli would leave Libya by the same date, April 29-30.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made the announcement last night after a day of speculation over the Government's intentions.

The decision should end the siege of the bureau in St James's Square, which began last Tuesday when shots from inside the building killed Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher, on duty during a demonstration outside.

The severing of relations follows several days of negotiations between the British and Libyan Governments, during which Britain demanded that all those inside the bureau should leave and allow themselves to be questioned by the police. Officers would then search the bureau for arms and explosives.

However, despite what looked like an encouraging start, the negotiations eventually proved fruitless, and pressure on the Government to take tough action against Libya and

its leader, Colonel Gaddafi, mounted swiftly after the bomb explosion at Heathrow airport on Good Friday, which injured 25 people.

Last night's decision came after two meetings yesterday of the Cabinet's Cobra emergency committee, which has been handling the affair under the chairmanship of Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary - and in the end it was no great surprise.

One result must be that WPC Fletcher's killer is almost certain to return to Libya a free man, conducted to the airport in safety guaranteed by the British Government.

However, it had become increasingly clear, as ministers acknowledged yesterday, that the police would have found it almost impossible to bring charges against any one man, because of the difficulty of collecting forensic evidence.

Mr Luce was flanked by a gun-faced Mr Brittan at the press conference in a Foreign Office conference room, where two years ago Lord Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, and Sir John Nott - then Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence - had announced the breach of diplomatic relations with Argentina after the Falkland Islands invasion.

Last night both ministers

described WPC Fletcher's killing as "a barbaric outrage" and emphasized that they had no doubt as to the direction from which the shots had come, despite Libyan denials.

Mr Luce said the Government had originally proposed to



Mr Luce the Libyans that diplomatic relations between the two countries should end "by agreement".

Under the agreement, all occupants of the bureau and all other Libyan diplomatic staff in Britain would have left in safety, while a similar arrangement would have been made for British diplomats in Tripoli.

The British authorities should also be satisfied under the deal that all weapons and explosives were removed from

the bureau, and that Libyan buildings in Britain could no longer be used as bases for terrorist acts.

Mr Luce continued: "The Libyans have not accepted these proposals. Instead, they, in effect, suggested that the outrage of April 17 should simply be put on one side."

Colonel Gaddafi's proposal for a Libyan commission of inquiry is, of course, his affair but we believe it is a wholly inadequate response to this flagrant abuse of diplomatic immunity.

"The British Government have, therefore, decided to break relations forthwith with Libya. We have so informed the acting secretary general of the people's bureau here."

The British ambassador at Tripoli, Mr Oliver Miles, has instructions to inform the Libyan authorities this evening.

The safety of the British community in Libya had been an essential priority throughout, he added.

The Foreign Office was not at present advising British people to leave Libya. British residents should consider their position carefully and keep in close touch with developments through the BBC World Service.

Siege scene, page 2
Leading article, page 11

MPs accept 'inevitable' decision

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Among MPs of all parties, now scattered for the Easter parliamentary recess, there was reluctant acceptance last night that the Government's decision was the only one open to it, given the restraints imposed by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the vulnerability of the British community in Libya.

Senior Opposition figures remained unwilling to comment publicly, but were inclined to give ministers credit for having done all they could, from a position of weakness, to secure their major objective of bringing to justice the killer of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher.

They expect Mr Leon Brittan, as the senior minister concerned, to make a statement and submit to questioning by MPs when the Commons reassembles on Wednesday. This would deal with matters of both Home Office and Foreign Office concern, from the circumstances of the shooting in St James's Square on Tuesday to the future handling of relations with Libya.

The expulsion of all Libyan Government representatives, whether diplomats or non-diplomats, is sure to be universally approved.

The decision yesterday was approved by the Prime Minister.

Police will 'need to check' for arms and explosives

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, made clear that the Libyan diplomats being expelled could leave, if they wish, at any time within the next seven days. But the police would need to be satisfied that anyone coming out of the bureau was not carrying arms and explosives.

He agreed, however, that the Libyan diplomatic steps would remain inoperative in accordance with international practice. The government, which followed scrupulously the code of behaviour laid down.

Mr Brittan said: "As far as other Libyans in this country are concerned, I shall look carefully at any evidence that their presence is against the national interest, and will not hesitate to use my powers of

removal if I am satisfied that it is."

Any applications for extensions of stay will be scrutinized with the greatest care.

Applications for visas for Libyans to travel in Britain would, for the time being, have to be made in neighbouring states, and all would be referred to London, where they would be "thoroughly and carefully examined".

All those already holding visas were being "advised" to reapply in view of the situation, if they wanted to enter Britain.

Mr Brittan said: "These measures will ensure that in the coming months only in the most exceptional circumstances will Libyan nationals be admitted to this country."

"In view of the outrage which

has occurred and the severance of diplomatic relations, I am sure that these steps will have widespread support. I shall keep these arrangements under close review."

Mr Brittan also made clear that diplomatic immunity for the Libyan People's Bureau itself would end with the departure of its staff and others inside. This would leave police free to search the buildings after waking as sure as they possibly could that no arms and explosives were being taken out.

Meanwhile, the police would remain in St James's Square until the bureau had been vacated, he said in reply to questions.

The investigation into the Continued on page 2, col 5



Libyan negotiators leaving the siege scene last night (Photograph: Barry Beattie)

Police keep up vigil outside bureau

By Stewart Tendler

At the siege scene in St James's Square last night, the police operation continued after the announcement that London was breaking off diplomatic relations with Tripoli. There was no sign of an increase in the police presence.

Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, spent much of the afternoon at the control centre and was still there in the early evening, despite a Cabinet meeting in Whitehall.

The two Libyan diplomats who have been involved in the negotiations left St James's

Square in police cars before the Government announcement.

Earlier in the day a number of civil servants, with documents, were taken in unmarked cars at speed to and from the police control point. Scotland Yard would not discuss the messengers or a letter which one of them seemed to bring to the police control point.

Amid speculation at the weekend that the inhabitants of the People's Bureau may be allowed to leave en masse without producing the killer of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher, the deputy

assistant commissioner, Mr Richard Wells, said the police response was "calm, responsible and professional".

Mr Wells is the head of the Yard's publicity department. Another spokesman said officers were obviously aggrieved about the death, but calm.

The siege has clearly become the latest landmark on the coach tours of central London. Throughout the day, coaches rumbled and thundered past the blue plastic sheeting which covers the main entrance to the square.

The bemused occupants

started out as their guide gesticulated to the rows of police cars and reporters.

Other tourists on foot wound their way down the street passing groups of policemen going backwards and forwards from shifts on the roofs with their rifles slung over their shoulders.

The more discreet officers tucked their rifles under coats but the barrels could be seen peeping out as they walked.

As the human drama and the diplomatic deliberations dragged on, a duck left an egg under a Libyan car.

15,000 jobs at risk in new steel strategy

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

British Steel is to submit a new corporate strategy to the Government that is likely to recommend the closure of one and possibly two of the corporation's five integrated steelworks, and the loss of up to 15,000 jobs.

The plants at Ravenscraig in Scotland, which has been kept open only on political insistence, and at Llanwern in South Wales, are thought to be the most threatened.

Although the revised corporate plan has not been finally agreed by the British Steel board, the miners' strike is likely to have tipped the balance in favour of drastic action to return the corporation to profit.

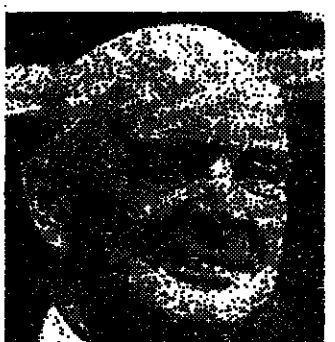
The effects of the coal strike particularly on the formerly profitable Scunthorpe works,

have helped to increase British Steel's losses from £2.5m to £3m per week.

Mr Robert Haslam, who succeeded Mr Ian MacGregor as British Steel chairman last September, has conceded that the existing corporate plan would not lead the corporation to break even, let alone make sufficient profits for long-term investment or meet the deadline of being free from state aid by the end of 1985.

Mr Haslam said in a speech at Scunthorpe: "We are determined that this will not be yet another in a series of plans, but will take us to the ultimate goal of achieving a fully commercially viable steel business."

The existing plan failed in its object because:
● Large increases in productivity maintained British Steel's capacity at 18 million tonnes a year, instead of the 15



Mr Haslam: Viability the ultimate goal

million tonnes envisaged under Mr MacGregor; production is now down to 13 million tonnes.

● British Steel does not expect a sufficient increase in demand to make it profitable in spite of a 10 per cent rise in European Community Steel output in the past year.

● Mr MacGregor's plan to ship Ravenscraig steel to be finished by the US Steel Corporation broke down and no further significant overseas initiatives are planned.

● There is an estimated 35 million tonnes of excess capacity within the European Community, which is unlikely to be eliminated.

● The corporation fears that a protracted coal strike may lead to further permanent loss of market, as happened after the coal strikes of the early seventies and the steel strike of 1981.

The revised strategy will have to be approved by the Government and then submitted to the European Commission. Ministers are likely to balk at the corporation's proposals because British Steel's plants in Scotland, South Wales, and on Teesside and Humberside are virtually



Two stabbed at 'Angels' camp site

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (top) and Prince Edward and the Princess of Wales leaving St George's Chapel, Windsor, after Easter Sunday morning service there yesterday. In the early evening the Duke flew from Heathrow Airport to Sweden where he will attend the final today of the World Cup show-jumping championships sponsored by Volvo and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture.

The British challenge is led by Michael Whitaker, who was lying equal third with an American.

(Photographs: Julian Parker)

Police sealed off a Somerset village early yesterday after two girls alleged they had been raped and fighting broke out at a Hell's Angels camp near Cheddar Gorge. Shots were said to have been fired, and two men stabbed.

Ten men are in police custody in connexion with the incident.

Seventy officers, some armed, were called to the village of Shipham at 5 am. Witnesses said that violence broke out when a rival gang of motorcyclists arrived at the Luke's Kingdom camp site where around 150 were staying. A van was set on fire and destroyed.

Police seized a shotgun and knives. The two men who were stabbed were taken to hospital at Weston-super-Mare.

Mr Robert Paul, 32, from Slough, was released after treatment, and Mr Vance Canal of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was said to be in a stable condition.

Elsewhere, there were traffic jams as motorists made for the coast and other tourist areas.

Mrs Christine Wells from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, was killed when the car she and her husband were in was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle on the A5 at Towcester, Northamptonshire.

Firemen were fighting a forest fire yesterday which broke out on Saturday near Okehampton and swept across seven square miles of Dartmoor.

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Teachers' union may drop action if employers increase offer to 4.5%

By Colin Hughes

Industrial action planned for next week by Britain's largest union for teachers could be averted if the employers improve their pay offer to 4.5 per cent as expected.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers, at their annual conference this week, are emphasizing that their members' militancy, as displayed at Saturday's pay debate, means acceptance of 4.5 per cent cannot be guaranteed.

The employers have asked for fresh negotiations next Monday. Mr Douglas McAvey, the union's deputy general secretary and leader of the teachers' side said he feared the offer could be "too little and too late".

Privately, however, the union's executive is keenly aware that long and bitter actions through the summer term, aimed at improving on 4.5 per cent, would be unlikely to achieve anything except lost public sympathy. The Scottish teachers and further education teachers have accepted 4.5 per cent.

Withdrawal of good will and refusal to perform voluntary tasks by the union's 230,000 members is due to start on Tuesday next week, the second day of term for most schools.

On Saturday the union also agreed to a one-day strike on May 9 if a settlement is not reached.

If the executive decides to recommend acceptance of an improved offer after Monday's meeting, the action would be suspended until a special delegates' conference of the union decided whether to ratify a deal.

The union will bear in mind that the teachers' best hope of recovering the ground lost on salaries since the Houghton commission in 1974 lies in talks on restructuring their pay.

A Burnham committee working party of employers and teachers has reached broad agreement on restructuring into two new grades, one for new teachers on entry, and a higher main professional grade for teachers who have proved their worth.

Mr McAvey said yesterday that four working party meetings were arranged to discuss restructuring, and the union believes better prospects of improved pay will be found in reaching agreement on restructuring by June.

Mr McAvey expected employers and teachers to make recommendations to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for

Education and Science, in time for him to put them before the Cabinet in the summer.

Negotiations on restructured salaries could then be held before local authority cash limits are set for 1985-86. Teachers' leaders will now try to link a review, along the lines of the Houghton and Clegg commissions, to restructuring proposals.

However, the barriers to a settlement on restructuring are substantial. Sir Keith will want it to include concessions turning voluntary duties into contractual duties, which the teachers are certain to fight.

● About 15 per cent of school books are now being bought for pupils by their parents, rather than by the local education authority, Mr John Davies, director of the Educational Publishers' Council, claimed yesterday.

He said total spending on school books this year had fallen by £2.6m in real terms, meaning one million fewer books were being purchased.

In the past five years spending on school books has fallen by £16m in real terms, only half of which could be explained by falling rolls.



The Prime Minister and her husband leaving church at Chequers after an Easter Sunday service as the Cabinet committee met in London on the Libyan bureau siege

Modern siege kit

Police play it by ear and eye

By Stewart Tendler

After six days of the St James's Square siege in London, an electronic city has grown up behind the blue plastic screens. At its centre is the long white control unit parked off Lower Regent Street.

In the unit, the length of an articulated lorry, a constant stream of information is fed to police commanders from overt and covert vantage points in the square. With three sieges, at the Spaghetti House, in Balcombe Street and the Iranian Embassy, behind them, Scotland Yard and the Home Office have assembled a highly developed siege kit.

Unlike other sieges, the police have no released hostages to provide them with inside information on the Libyan People's Bureau. Instead, they must gather it themselves and if possible build on it so they can monitor the bureau day and night.

Science has made that possible both visually and acoustically. By the afternoon of the first day technicians were on roofs overlooking the bureau setting up what are believed to be laser microphones which can pick up sound vibrating on the windows of a target building.

The police will have also tried to insert pinhead microphones through the exterior walls of the bureau from buildings either side. During the Iranian Embassy siege in 1980 the sound of drilling by

the police was concealed using gas board workmen apparently mending pipes nearby. The people in the Iranian Embassy were also distracted by rearing over Knightsbridge commercial aircraft coming into Heathrow. A military aircraft made three noisy passes over the St James's area on Thursday night, suggesting a similar ruse is being used this time.

A number of microphones have also been lowered from surrounding roofs, and these are likely to be extra sensitive with a capacity to pick up sound at some distance. Television and closed-circuit video cameras are likely to have been placed in the square to watch the bureau's exterior. The police also have television cameras fitted to their two helicopters. The immediate aftermath of Tuesday's shooting was probably recorded by one of these machines flying nearby. It may have provided the information which led to a car being stopped near Heathrow airport.

The Home Office has developed a technique for discovering buried bodies by identifying sources of heat in the ground given off by the gases of decomposition. That equipment may be used at the bureau to identify people moving inside by their body heat which can be recognized by the machinery. The men monitoring the intelligence gathering system range from the men in charge

at the scene, one or two deputy assistant commissioners, who split each 24 hours into two shifts, to a variety of individual police specialists.

All 30 members of Scotland Yard's D11 branch, the firearms specialists, are at the scene working in two 12-hour shifts. Firearms training for the Metropolitan Police has been suspended during the siege.

The officers at vantage points around the square and the roofs above are equipped with a sniper rifle based on a military design and a version of the Hechtler and Koch automatic rifle fixed to fire single shots. They can also call on pump-action shotguns which might be used to fire CS-gas. The new controversial miniature sub-machineguns bought by the police have not yet been delivered.

To maintain their watch the D11 men and other officers can use image intensifiers at night to cover the darkened parts of the square. The intensifiers enhance available light to improve night vision. In some parts of the square the police have also set up portable street light systems with their own generators.

The D11 men are supported by a number of officers trained in the use of rifles and normally based at Heathrow. There are also elements of the 300-strong diplomatic patrol group. Up to 50 officers are on duty at any one time providing an inner cordon around the square.

Checking for arms

Continued from page 1

EEC action against Colonel Gaddafi's Government would be considered only at a later date.

Arrangements will also have to be made for countries to act as "protecting powers" to look after the interests of one another's nationals in the two countries.

Mr Richard Luce said one country had already offered to do so on Britain's behalf in Tripoli.

The ministers also referred to the "extremely grave consequences" of any action taken by Colonel Gaddafi against British people living in Libya, but Mr Luce pointed out that since the United States broke relations with the Libyans between 500 and 600 Americans were continuing to live quite normally in Libya.

Observer sale talks

Continued from page 1

He would "most certainly" want to keep Mr Trefford, whom he "greatly admired", as editor. He said he could find no fault with Mr Trefford's handling of the Matabeleland story, but he would "violently object" to a "vendetta" such as the one he considered *The Observer* had conducted against Mrs Thatcher over her son Mark's involvement in the company for which she helped to secure a building contract in Oman.

"It was done without regard to firm evidence of wrongdoing. I would have stamped on him for that, it was wrong and unfair". Asked whether he did not consider this would amount to interfering with editorial independence, he replied: "I am sorry, but there are limits to an editor's freedom when he allows his paper to indulge in what is plainly a vendetta".

Mr Maxwell said he was slightly more left-wing than Mr Trefford and would hope that *The Observer* would become somewhat more left of centre. He would introduce new printing technology "in due course", and thought he could do it better, cheaper and faster than anyone else.

He saw the idea of owning a

national paper during a difficult time for the British press as a challenge. "I have shown I am a manager who knows how to manage things that appear unmanageable to others".

Mr Trefford said the possibility of his being editor under Mr Maxwell was "too hypothetical" for comment. "We have got a long way to go before we reach that point", he said.

The first priority was to clear up the present dispute with Mr Rowland through the legally-prescribed channels and any question of a sale was irrelevant at present.

Mr Maxwell: Prospective buyer

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Foreign companies offered no-strike deal by union

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

One of Britain's largest unions is launching a "sales mission" in non-union Japanese and United States-owned electronics companies and will offer no-strike agreements to managements in an attempt to win up to 30,000 new members.

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU) is likely to incur the wrath of the left in the trade union movement which is trying to damp down growing interest in no-strike clauses being offered to new ventures.

But the EETPU is adamant that the only way unions will be able to win new membership in the industries of the future, many of which are controlled by companies antagonistic to unions, is through agreements that guarantee no industrial disruption.

The union's pilot scheme is to be launched in west and central Scotland within the next two weeks when the new "sunrise" companies will be sent a video film explaining the controversial agreement that the EETPU struck with Toshiba in Plymouth.

That agreement, along with subsequent deals at Sanyo in Lowestoft and at Immos and AB Electronics in south Wales, does not specifically rule out the possibility of industrial action, but is so tightly drawn that it makes strikes all but impossible to organize.

The union's initial target is the growing number of electronics companies in Scotland, where it has estimated that there could be between 20,000 and 30,000 prospective members if the companies' resistance to unions can be overcome.

Mr David Chalmers, the union's Scottish organizer, said: "Our attitude is that the present industrial climate is not the best for recruiting new members but that will not last if we have the

right approach to industrial relations.

The aim is to pick the larger of the new companies, those probably with more than 400 employees although all 200 enterprises in Scotland's fast-growing electronics industry will be approached by the union.

Its video film shows how the Toshiba agreement works and includes words of praise from senior company management as well as union officials.

At the centre of the model agreement is the principle of "pendulum arbitration". This allows for binding arbitration being used to settle disputes, and if the issue is pay, the arbitrator has to rule either in favour of the union's claim or the company's award. Because he cannot come down in the middle with a "fudge" both unions and managements believe the system forces them to moderate their approach to industrial relations issues.

EETPU officials, expecting criticism of their growing commitment to no-strike deals, point to the fact that union members covered by such agreements have access to company information that would previously have been denied and are able to discuss fundamental business decisions with senior managers. "The loss of the strike weapon is no great loss. Only in extreme circumstances have strikes ever done anybody any good anywhere either for employees or employers."

But his comments will jar with many trade union leaders because of growing sensitivity surrounding no-strike deals and the final round of negotiations about to take place between unions and Nissan on the Japanese company's planned assembly plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Adams sympathy for dead IRA bomber

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Provisional Sinn Féin MP, yesterday paid tribute to a Provisional IRA terrorist who was killed when a bomb he is believed to have planted exploded, hurling metal and masonry hundreds of yards across a car park.

Richard Quigley, aged 20, died after being struck on the head by a brick which had been packed around a 35-gallon drum of petrol. He was watching the van bomb explode when he was killed, on Saturday night, and later the Provisional IRA in Londonderry admitted that the unemployed youth was one of their members. He was from the Bogside area of the city, and died while on "active service" attempting a bomb attack against security forces.

Mr Adams, making his first public appearance since an attempt on his life, told thousands of republicans in Londonderry at a commemorative rally on the 1916 Easter rising, that Mr Quigley had died fighting for Irish freedom.

Later, he attacked the New Ireland Forum as a useless exercise which had been set up as a lifeline for the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

Two soldiers of the Second Battalion, The Queen's Regiment were treated for slight burns after the Londonderry explosion, which was aimed at a joint police and army patrol as it drove near the city's Guildhall on Saturday night. Chief Inspector Robert Boyd said: "I can only describe it as a despicable act."

Mr Quigley is the third member of the Provisional IRA to die in a terrorist incident in the province this year and his death came only hours before republicans throughout Ireland began a series of parades commemorating the 68th anniversary of the 1916 Easter rising.

The bomb had been concealed in a hijacked van, abandoned by its rear doors open in a car park near the embankment of the Foyle.

As a three-vehicle patrol of Londonderry passed, terrorists including Mr Quigley detonated the bomb by either a conventional command wire or a piece of fishing line. The rear of the van had been packed with the can of petrol to create a firebomb, and breeze blocks held it in place.

Mr Quigley was about 70 feet from the van when the blast occurred shortly after 10pm in an area where there is a big bus depot and a taxi rank. The road where the bomb exploded was scorched black by the fierce heat from the petrol, but other members of the security forces in the patrol escaped injury.

The "own goal" by the Provisional IRA is the second mistake in a week by the terrorists in Londonderry. Last Tuesday the organization apologized for shooting a 22-year-old Roman Catholic in mistake for an undercover soldier. Mr Stephen Lague from Bogside underwent emergency surgery to remove bullet wounds to his chest after he had been attacked by Provisional IRA gunmen as he drove his car towards the city centre.

Security forces along the border in Northern Ireland were warned by the Provisional IRA yesterday that terrorist attacks on them would increase in the next few months.

The warning was delivered in a message from the organization during a parade in Crossmaglen, south Armagh which was one of many held to commemorate the 1916 Easter rising. Thousands of republicans took part in parades, many of which included men and women dressed in para-military uniform, across the province.

Orders given on charges over Maze jail break

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

In his report into the escape Sir James Hennessey said Mr Ferris, who had been stabbed three times in the chest, ran from a gate lodge changed by a prisoner, Dermot Finucane, before collapsing and dying.

Sir James adds that Finucane, still at large, stabbed two officers entering the prison. In the escape four officers were stabbed, two were shot and 13 kicked and beaten.

The report also studied the role of Mr Ian McFarlane, whose home near the Maze was used by eight escapes on the night of the breakout.

Mr McFarlane claimed that the fugitives made him swear an oath of silence for 72 hours on the Bible. Under Northern Ireland's emergency legislation people can be charged with withholding information.

The report did not include investigations into claims from Roman Catholic priests that up to 90 prisoners were ill-treated. The priests said some were assaulted by officer after the escape.

Sir John has no power to alter Sir Barry's directions.

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Forged £50 notes warning

By John Young

A widespread and ambitious scheme to flood Britain with forged £50 notes over the Easter holiday period was gradually coming to light yesterday.

Police throughout the country were apparently caught unawares by the size and scale of the operation.

The public have been warned to check all £50 notes by holding them up to the light. The counterfeiters are said to be excellent, but the water mark and metal strip are missing.

Examples have so far been discovered in Southend, Brighton, Bournemouth, Chelmsford, Stevenage, York, Scarborough and South Shields.

Detective Inspector Colin Edkins said in Southend that the forgers were clearly "very ambitious" in choosing such a high denomination. People would be more likely to look closely at a £50 note than at a £5 or £10.

Two men appeared in court in Redbridge, east London, on Saturday. Mr Mark Bines, a car dealer, aged 29, from Woodford Green, Essex, and Mr Alan Taylor, a plumber's mate, aged 44, of Manor Park, east London, were charged with conspiring to contravene the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act, 1981, possession of 1,009 forged £50 notes, and possession of 100 grammes of cocaine and 50 grammes of cannabis.

Five men were facing charges at Southend police station last night, and others were being interviewed in York and South Shields.

Young Liberals elect Tisdall

Sarah Tisdall, the Foreign Office clerk jailed for leaking a government memo, was elected last night as national vice-president of the Young Liberals with the biggest majority for more than ten years.

Five other vice-presidents elected at the Torquay conference were Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the Greater London Council, Mr Simon Hughes and Mr David Alton, both Liberal MPs, and two Young Liberals, Miss Sue Younger Ross and Mr Nigel Ashton.

Child with rare illness is home

Derek McDonald, aged nine months, who was born with the rare Central Hypoventilation Syndrome which prevents him breathing while asleep, returned home at the weekend to a specially-adapted nursery with his own respirator, bought from a fund which raised £24,000.

His parents Christine, aged 27, and Derek, aged 27, of Birch Road, Haydock, Merseyside, thanked friends, relatives and strangers for contributing to the fund. "It is a permanent condition and there is no cure,"

Hattersley criticizes coal policy 'deceit'

From Our Correspondent

Sheffield

The Government's pretence that the miners' strike was none of its business was a carefully cultivated deceit, Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said last night.

"Ian MacGregor was appointed as coal board chairman to act as the agent of the Government's will. He has plunged the industry into chaos in pursuit of the Government's financial targets," Mr Hattersley told a Co-operative Party conference rally in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr Hattersley added: "The Government, led by the Home Secretary in his capacity as Uriah Heep, has commented on the dispute in a way which is intentionally provocative and palpably prejudiced."

"The Government cannot abdicate from its responsibilities to preserve industrial peace in any industry. Its obligations towards a nationalized industry are obvious and irrefutable, and in the case of the coal dispute, they have been wilfully ignored."

Mr Hattersley said the dispute was the result of two disastrous government prejudices. The first was an economic policy which was more concerned with short-term financial targets than long-term growth. The second was an industrial relations policy which amounted to the Government imposing its will on trade unions.

"The Government expects the coal board to break even within three years, to balance the books as if it were a Grantham grocery shop. To write off potentially productive capacity simply in order to meet an arbitrary target by an

Palace denies report of paint spray compensation

By Staff Reporters

A report that the Queen might personally compensate American reporters and photographers sprayed with white paint by Prince Andrew was described as "pure speculation" by a Buckingham Palace official yesterday.

The question of how any claims might be settled could not be considered unless or until they were submitted, he added.

The official also disclaimed any knowledge of the Palace having asked for a more detailed account of the Prince's activities from the British consul general in Los Angeles.

British diplomats abroad report to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and not to the Palace, he pointed out. Any information passed on by the Foreign Office would be in the strictest confidence.

The Prince returned from his five-day visit to California on Friday, in time to join the



Mr Hattersley: "Pits plunged into chaos"

arbitrary date is to act as if bookkeeping is more important than output.

"A pit closed is a pit never reopened. So if the Government gets its way we will be throwing away a vital part of a great national asset which we need now and will need even more when North Sea oil runs out."

Mr Hattersley said private manufacturing industry was applauded for borrowing to secure its future, but the National Coal Board has been told to reduce borrowing whatever the price in reduced output.

Mr Hattersley suggested a way out for the Government. "Under the last Labour Government the NUM proved itself willing to negotiate changes in the industry," he said.

"It would do so again if it were offered honest discussions on a plan that respected miners' interests, preserved productive potential of the industry and safeguarded the nation's future need for coal. The Government ought to insist that such discussions begin now."

Fights halt extreme right rally

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool

The leaders of a right-wing extremist party whose rally was broken up by violence in Liverpool said they will hold meetings again in the city.

Mr Ian Sloan, north-west regional organizer of the British National Party, blamed "left-wing agitators" for the scuffles inside the Adelphi hotel, where the meeting was held on Saturday night.

More than a hundred police were called in to provide a cordon around the building after 300 demonstrators broke into the meeting. One man was reported to have been hit over the head with a chair and another struck with a metal flag stand.

Mr Sloan said: "Left-wing agitators forced their way past our stewards and any trouble was caused by them. We have a democratic right to hold meetings and we will not let any threats stop us holding a meeting in Liverpool again."

A police spokesman said accounts of violence outside the hotel had been exaggerated.

Inner cities an appalling legacy, Prince says

Britain's inner cities were one of the appalling legacies of the industrial revolution, the Prince of Wales said yesterday.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4 *Soundings* programme, he said that to repair and renovate the inner city areas would require "unaided-boggling" investment, but "if we are going to arrive at a reasonable situation, more must be done."

With a £36,000m annual social security and welfare bill, the depletion of North Sea oil would bring great difficulties by the turn of the century, he said.

The Prince was being interviewed about the royal jubilee trusts which sponsor inner city projects. He said that he

believed that the "accident of birth or wealth" or privileges was only justified by obligations to return something.

If he "sold up" and gave everything, it would be a three- or four-day wonder. There would be headlines about it for a bit and a lot of people would think I was quite dotty. I am not sure how much I could achieve after that."

Overseas selling prices

Aspirin 60c, Aspirin 10c, Aspirin 20c, Aspirin 30c, Aspirin 40c, Aspirin 50c, Aspirin 60c, Aspirin 70c, Aspirin 80c, Aspirin 90c, Aspirin 100c

"When I've finished the paper, I'll think about sending money to the NSPCC."

UK plans to reduce air fares in Europe and end EEC restrictions

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Britain is planning an assault on high air fares in Europe next month. Also under attack will be restrictive practices by European state airlines which Britain believes are contrary to United Kingdom interests and in flagrant contravention of the Treaty of Rome.

Proposals, to be put to the Council of Ministers on May 10, are seen not only as striking a blow for the European air traveller, now paying 40 per cent more than he should by the Government's estimates, but also as a strong riposte to EEC states that have accused Britain in recent months of being "non-European".

The proposals will call for an important step towards a common market in aviation by allowing airlines of any EEC country to enter any European internal route without restrictions.

That would generate a totally new style of competition for Europe in fares, number and timing of flights and quality of service, all of which have been closely controlled by governments under bilateral agreements up to now.

It would extend to Europe the kind of competition seen increasingly on Britain's dom-

estic routes in recent months which the Government considers good for the traveller and the airlines. British Midland flying on British Airways shuttle routes is an example.

Britain has a strong interest in cheaper and more efficient air transport in Europe. British businessmen have further to go to reach the heartland of the EEC and therefore suffer more from high fares; and Britain's cheaper and more efficient airlines, including charter companies such as Britannia, Dan Air and Monarch, would prove strong competitors against Europe's generally flabby, feather bedded concerns.

There is also considerable indignation among ministers, which has mounted during the EEC budget frays of the past year, that Britain is being put constantly in the dock as "non-communautaire" while being denied the prizes which its particular skills might be expected to win from the community.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, who will lead the United Kingdom delegation next month, said in an exclusive interview: "We dismantled ou-

protective barriers to allow free competition in the supply of goods. But when it comes to competition in services—road haulage, insurance, aviation—they will not dismantle, which is unfair."

Britain's demands will be put simultaneously with a new Brussels memorandum on aviation which goes some way in the same direction. But the Government fears that in the absence of powerful new pressure from Britain it will be frustrated in all too familiar style by the stonewalling tactics of the Council of Ministers.

This time things look like being different because, Mr Ridley, says there are "winds of change" blowing through the corridors of aviation from the United States and Britain into Europe; and because there is a growing threat of court action against obstruction by governments and airlines.

Most of all though, there now seems a readiness of the part of Britain to act unilaterally, if necessary. The kind of policies Britain wants could be started on a bilateral route with a friendly state, The Netherlands for example, without waiting for EEC authorization.

The great Easter egg hunt in Leeds Castle grounds



A boy searching yesterday for one of the 5,000 chocolate eggs hidden in the grounds of Leeds Castle near Maidstone, Kent and (right) a girl from Orpington who found one (Photographs: John Manning)

Drive to curb use of cheap foreign drugs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Family doctors' leaders have launched a campaign to ensure that patients receive the drugs prescribed for them, rather than cheap imported versions which may have dangerous variations in dosage or effect.

The General Medical Services Committee of the British Medical Association is asking doctors in future to stamp all their prescriptions "UK licensed products only".

The move comes after reports of patients suffering adverse effects from the boom in "parallel" imports of cheap drugs from Europe, which are similar but not identical to British products of the same name.

Up to £100m of such drugs are estimated to be imported each year, the incentives for chemists being that they can dispense the cheaper drug and charge the National Health Service the full cost of the British equivalent.

The association says that it had had reports of drugs being dispensed with differently worded instructions to the British product, different dosages, different formulations and in one case a drug with the same name but a different make-up to the British product.

The family doctor's action follows the announcement earlier this month that ministers are to tighten up the safety controls on imported drugs.

Runcie's Easter theme is faith

The Christian faith is the only real evidence of Jesus's resurrection, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said in his Easter Day sermon at Canterbury Cathedral yesterday.

"From the beginning it has been the abiding conviction of his followers that Jesus is no dead hero, merely to be remembered and honoured by a cenotaph or Mausoleum," Dr

Runcie said. "Jesus is a living saviour, active in life and death."

It was in the Christian faith, the heroic sacrifice of saints and the daily worship of the Church that compelling evidence of the resurrection was found, he continued.

Christians in every generation and every part of the world had known the power of Christ in their lives, transform-

ing them with forgiveness, love and hope, and had recognized in Christ the very person and presence of God.

Dr Runcie added that the New Testament contained the irrepressible conviction of the first Christians who had seen and believed that Jesus was alive, risen from the dead and powerfully present in the lives of his followers.

MP seeks less intensive farming

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers and conservationists have a common interest in "getting agriculture down to a lower gear", an article in *Rucksack*, the journal of the Ramblers' Association, suggests.

Its author, Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, blames govern-

ments and politicians for goading farmers into a high input and high output system.

The excessive price of land, he says, has forced them to get the highest possible yields out of both soil and stock to service their capital debt or to pay their rent.

"The farmer has been getting the blame, but that is unfair", he writes. "The policymakers devise the policy and decide how to get farmers to conform to it. This they do with a cocktail of grants, levies, subsidies and tax allowances, laced with questionable advice."

Accident toll rises for stunt bicycles

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

Road safety officers are alarmed at the rising toll of accidents among children performing stunts on BMX bicycles on busy roads. Since the craze for the specially strengthened BMX (bicycle moto cross) machines began, accidents among young cyclists have risen by nearly 150 per cent on Merseyside.

Mr Dennis Edwards, road safety officer for Wirral, said: "Bikes like the BMX encourage people to perform stunts and tricks which are very dangerous. Popular stunts like jumps, wheelies and bunnyhops should be done in private and not on the road."

"I know if this particular machine was off the market the number of accidents would be reduced."

But Mr Barry Porter, Conservative MP for Wirral South and a member of the Commons Select Committee on Transport, said yesterday: "It is the parents' responsibility to make sure that their children are properly trained and do not act in a silly fashion."

Accidents have risen across Merseyside with the greatest increase in Wirral where 108



Mr Barry Porter: "Parents responsible"

young males were injured last year compared with 44 in 1982. Female injuries were up by only 10 per cent over the year.

Mr Alan Lewis, senior road safety officer for the Wirral, said: "Children know the capabilities of the bike and when they start doing tricks on the roadside this invariably leads to accidents."

A spokesman for *BMX Weekly*, a magazine for BMX riders, said: "We stress the safety aspects of the BMX. Even a trick like the 'kerb endo'—a front wheel balance on the kerb—should not be performed on the road."

House fires kill four in Scotland

Four people died in three house fires in Scotland yesterday.

Mrs Ann West, aged 56, her daughter, Mrs Margaret Anderson, aged 28, and her granddaughter, Marlene Anderson, aged nine, died when fire badly damaged their home at Pleat, near Stirling.

Mrs West's son, James, aged 24, is being treated in Stirling Royal Infirmary for burns. A baby aged 23 days, Joan Nicholson, died in a cottage fire near Uig on the Isle of Skye after her mother and grandmother tried to reach her. Her father, Mr William Nicholson, a shepherd, was away from home helping with the lambing at a farm near Hawick in the Borders.

He had not seen his child and left immediately for Skye when told of the tragedy.

Another house fire at Loan-croft Avenue, Baillieston, near Glasgow, affected seven people.

Mrs Mary Rennie, aged 57, is being treated at Glasgow Royal Infirmary for the effects of smoke. Her daughter, Mary, aged 23, has a spine fracture and a son, Michael, aged 21, is being treated for burns.

Two grandchildren, Dominic McElhill, aged 11, and his sister, Lee-Ann, aged six, are being treated at the Sick Children's Hospital, Glasgow, for the effects of smoke.

Other members of the family were slightly injured when they jumped from the terrace house to escape.

In Glasgow yesterday police continued to investigate the death of five members of the Doyle family, a week after a fire caused by an arsonist at Bankend Street, Ruchazie, Glasgow.

Mr James Doyle, aged 53, and his son, Daniel, aged 28, are still critically ill in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Police wish to interview them in an attempt to discover the motive for the attack on the family house.

A cupboard next to the Doyle's house on the third floor of a tenement was set on fire, and flames spread rapidly

Farmers fear higher levy to halt pig disease

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's pig farmers, who are just beginning to see signs of recovery after three years of overproduction and depressed prices, now fear there will be steeply increased levies to pay for the eradication of Aujeszky's disease.

A slaughter programme was introduced last year in the hope of eliminating the disease, which is carried by a virus, and which causes swine to abort.

The levy was set at 30p for every pig slaughtered, and farmers hoped the rest of the cost of compensation could be

met from the proceeds of sales of the unaffected pigs from the slaughtered herds.

However, the compensation fund is now estimated to be between £16m and £18m in debt. The National Farmers' Union has been heavily criticized for getting its sums wrong and for overestimating the returns from a depressed market.

The Ministry of Agriculture has refused to provide any financial aid, insisting that the programme must be funded from within the industry.

Pollution in Europe's forests

Degrees of blame for acid rain

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

As the green tips of the new foliage begin to sprout in the forests of Europe, the extent of the increase of dead trees attributed to atmospheric pollution such as acid rain is becoming apparent. The worst affected region remains West Germany where one third of the forests are damaged to some degree.

There are increasingly large stands of dead trees of all varieties and of deterioration with deformed shoots, shrivelling roots and progressive thinning of tree crowns.

Yet the experts continue to differ in interpreting from the same facts the reasons for the rapid decline during the past four to five years and about the degree of blame to attach to acid rain.

These differences are evident in three publications. One provides the results of a research project which followed pollutant materials from power stations and industrial plant from which they were discharged into the upper atmosphere.

There the materials were converted to acid rain, acid snow, trace metal deposits, ozone and photochemical mists.

These compounds were tracked hundreds of miles from their sources in the eastern part of the United States in an eastwards direction over the northern hemisphere.

were made by scientists of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

They pursued the sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide, using an airborne laser to analyse the chemical reactions taking place in the upper atmosphere. From these studies they concluded that the acid rain and other pollutants were deposited in remote parts of the ocean and in polar regions.

But an analysis of acid rain by Dr Peter Chester, director of the Central Electricity Research Laboratories at Leatherhead, Surrey, would need some of that material to account for the rise in acidity in lochs in Scotland.

Writing in the *Electrical Power Engineer*, Dr Chester says: "There is no doubt that emissions of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen into the atmosphere do contribute to the acidity deposited on natural ecosystems. If the acid is dilute enough there is no reason to suppose that problems would arise since the natural environment is well used to handling acids."

Dr Chester defends the Central Electricity Generating Board's tall-stack policy for dispersing sulphur dioxide high into the atmosphere.

He says the contribution that the sulphur dioxide from the board's power stations makes to the amount which falls

elsewhere in Europe is very small. Therefore, he rejects a proposal from the European Commission, made at the beginning of the year, to combat the problems of acid rain by requiring all new power stations exceeding 300 megawatts, after January 1, 1985, to limit sulphur dioxide emissions.

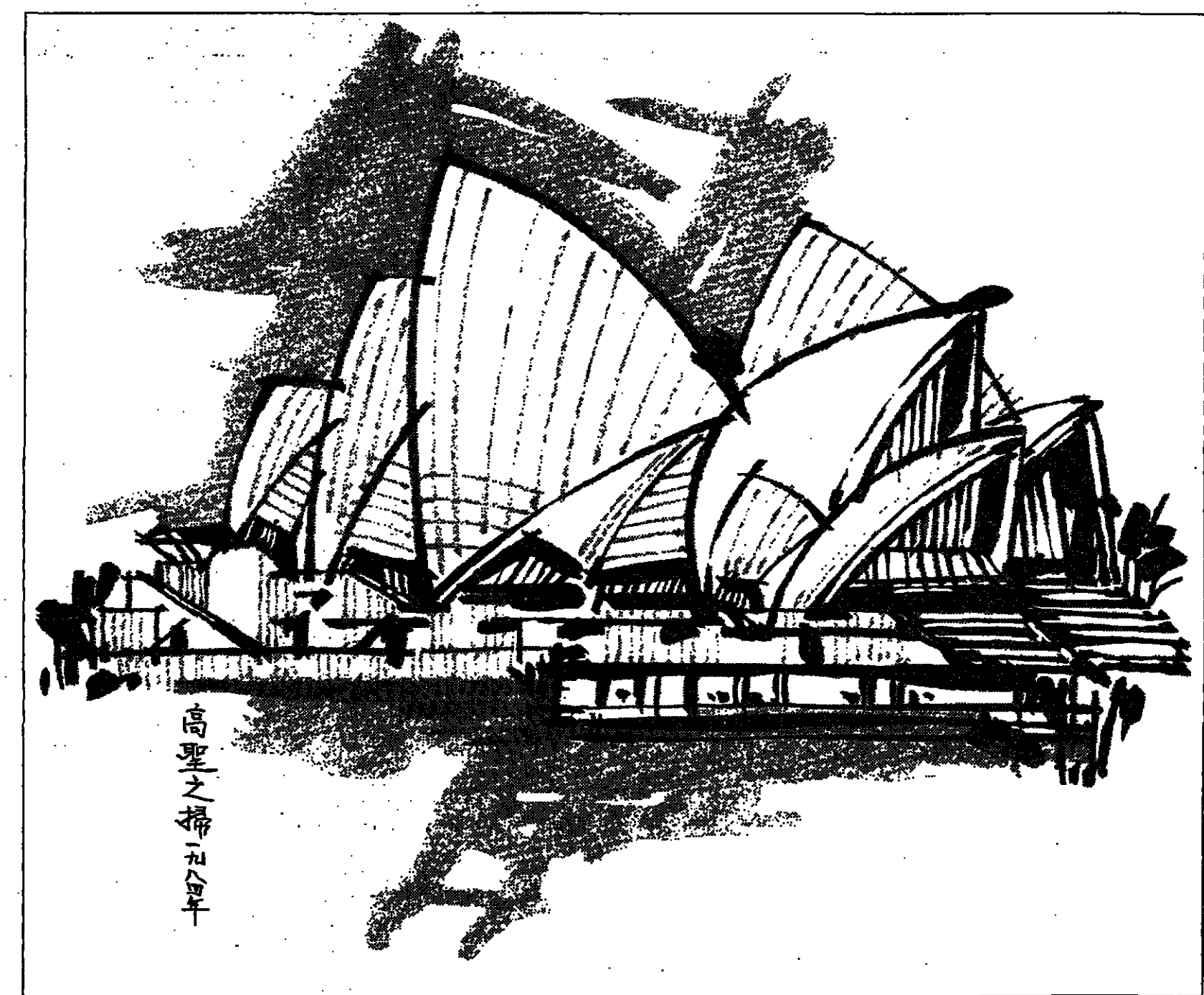
He said that would be too expensive and that proposals to add equipment to existing stations would cost the Board more than £1,500m.

In an opposite conclusion, another expert, Miss Sandra Postel, urges immediate action to curb sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Her evidence is contained in *Air Pollution, Acid Rain and the Future of Forests*. Miss Postel says scientists cannot fully explain how forest destruction is occurring but air pollutants and acid rain are apparently causing stress to sensitive forests beyond their ability to cope.

Weakened by air pollution, acidic and impoverished soil or poisonous metals, trees lose their resistance to natural events such as drought, insect attacks and frost.

The survey depicts how during the past century fossil fuel and smelting emissions have altered the chemistry of the atmosphere at an unprecedented pace. Today the atmosphere receives as much sulphur from human activities as it does naturally from oceans, swamps and volcanoes.

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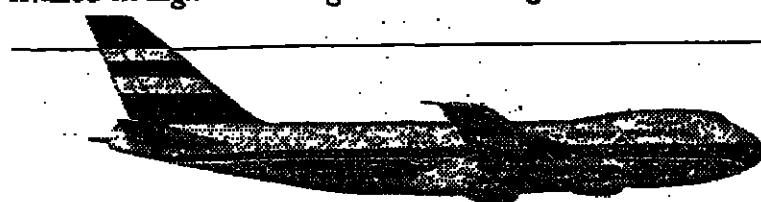
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The rates rumpus: 1

An unequal share of misery

Rates demands, like tulips, come in April. The tulips have been blooming after the cold spring, heralding the arrival of rates bills. The demands are less alarming than the local government lobby predicted.

The local government lobby in action is a spectacular device. As with the most expensive Guy Fawkes rockets it goes up with a whoosh and comes down in a shower of bright starry pieces that crackle and crepitate as they descend.

The initial whoosh came when the Government told councils how much it would contribute to their spending in the 12 months that have just begun. The councils made their point through the associations of authorities which form the visible backbone of the local government lobby.

The associations opened a noisy attack before Christmas on the Government's plan to spice a cut in its contribution with stiffer penalties for what it saw as "overspending" by councils. The Government pays about half of the total cost of council spending and ratepayers the other half.

Bang went the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities just before Christmas. "A rates crisis will hit ratepayers in towns and cities throughout the country next April," it proclaimed. Fizz went the Conservative-led Association of County Councils. "Ratepayers will face abnormally high increases or serious cuts in services or both," it growled.

Now the bright starry things have come to rest, and the debate about abolishing the Greater London Council has pushed the argument about rates from the centre of the political stage. Most of the increases being demanded by councils are in line with the rise in the cost of living during the past year. Some councils are

Local government finance is becoming so complex that even the experts find it hard to understand. But that will not stop rates demands landing on millions of doorsteps in the coming weeks. In the first of three articles, Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent, explains the bewildering political rumpus about rates.

demanding increases much higher than the rate of inflation, but some have actually managed to reduce their rates.

The rates argument is not over, it has simply been postponed. The Government's contribution to local spending is not shared equally among councils. That means that the misery for ratepayers is not shared equally, either. A level of spending which is considered respectable by ministers earns councils a full share of grant. Those considered the worst "overspenders", in ministerial eyes, receive none.

There are three reasons why the local government lobby dislikes what the Government has done to rates this year. First, it has cut its share of local spending while letting councils take the blame for the resulting squeeze. Second, it has made its methods of sharing out the grant more complicated instead of less. Third, it has penalized friends while letting some of its enemies go free.

The calculations are fiendishly complex. They start from the amount that ministers think councils might spend in a financial year. There are two quite separate but parallel ways

Rate rises from April 1984 (%)

	Domestic	Commercial
London average	6.42	6.22
Metropolitan district (outside London)	5.09	4.23
Non-metropolitan district	7.11	6.08
Wales	9.56	8.52
North East, England	6.71	5.86

Source: Rating and Valuation Association Survey of all 401 rating councils except Solihull and Liverpool.

of working that out. One way produces the sum that a council needs to spend to provide adequate services. The other produces a sum based on the council's actual spending in the recent past.

The latter amount is what ministers think councils ought to spend, and is used as the trigger for penalties in the form of grant reductions. Calculation of the two sums is governed by rigid formulae, which do not always produce the same answers. Some Conservative councils have been stung this year because the amount that ministers have told them they ought to spend is less than the amount that the other formula says they need to spend.

One council was Essex, which learnt soon after being congratulated by the Government for its efficiency that it would face a penalty for "overspending". Bewildered councillors feel squeezed from several directions at once. The Government cuts its share of their spending year by year, and will cut it even more if it finds them guilty of overspending.

What is most galling of all is that the penalty system fails to trap the outrageous "overspenders". Each moved of overspending by a council incurs a penalty in the form of a reduction in grant. The greater the overspending the harsher the cut.

It is therefore possible for a council to spend so much that it receives no grant at all. The Greater London Council is the largest of the few which have passed that point. For them the Government has had to invent a new deterrent.

Tomorrow: Rate-capping

Protest at Tory calls for cash

From Our Correspondent King's Lynn

Protests have been raised over letters asking constituents to contribute to the expenses of Mr Henry Bellingham, Tory MP for Norfolk North West.

Mr Bellingham's agent sent 100 letters with raffle tickets to people who had consulted the MP at his surgeries.

Mrs Dee Coker, of North Lynn, said yesterday "I got eight raffle tickets costing 25p each and a letter suggesting I should sell them to help offset some of the expenses incurred."

"I think it is a damn cheek. It is a backdoor method of charging people for going to a surgery which should be free and available to all constituents," Mrs Coker, a committee member of the local Social Democratic Party, added. "Mr Bellingham was most helpful and courteous. But when you have a profession your salary covers what you do."

Mr Bellingham said: "Those letters were not sent with my blessing. I don't approve of the practice because the MP provides a public service regardless of the costs."

His agent, Mr Ted Warner, said: "People don't have to sell the tickets if they don't want to."

Urban plan review to remain secret

By Peter Hennessy and David Walker

The result of the Whitehall review of the Government's £348m urban programme, the first since the rethink followed the inner city riots of 1981, is to be kept secret.

The joint investigation, conducted by the Department of the Environment and the Treasury, with assistance from the Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit, will be completed at the end of next month.

It will be presented to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Treasury ministers. But it is being treated as an internal matter and there are no plans to release it to the all-party Commons Select Committee on the Environment or to the public.

It is emphasized in Whitehall that the investigation, known officially as the "Urban Policy Programme Review" is a value-for-money inquiry, not a cost-cutting exercise. The Treasury has already trimmed the urban budget by about 5 per cent by refusing to increase it in line with inflation.

The inquiry team is being supervised by Mr David Edwards, the department's under-secretary in charge of its inner cities directorate. It is



Mr Patrick Jenkin: To study report

being led by Mr Kit Chivers, a Treasury assistant secretary, with Miss Kate Jenkins, an assistant secretary in Mrs Thatcher's Efficiency Unit, and two assistant secretaries in the Inner Cities Directorate, Mr Michael Gahagan and Mr Neil Sanders.

Their prime purpose is to discover what evidence of the urban programme, which involves a myriad of collaborative ventures with local authorities, the public and private sectors and voluntary bodies, is providing the most effective and giving the taxpayer the best value for money. Leading article, page 11

Surrey SW by-election

Liberal woos Tory waverers

By David Cross

If enthusiasm alone could win by-elections the Liberals would walk away with Surrey south west, the constituency of the late Viscount Macmillan, on May 3.

Led by Sir Robert Marshall, a bubbling former Permanent Secretary at the Departments of Industry, Energy and the Environment, the campaign of Mr Gavin Scott, aged 33, BBC broadcaster with such programmes as *World at One* and *Newsnight*, is crisscrossing the budding lanes of one of the prettiest constituencies in the South-east in his search for Conservatives disillusioned with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's second term of office.

On the common of the village of Dunsfold, he found just such a person, another Mrs Thatcher who conceded that she might break the habit of a lifetime and vote for the SDP-Liberal alliance. "It's this problem of employment," Mrs Doris Thatcher, of New Inn Cottage, who is nearing retirement age, said. "It is not so bad for us at our stage in life but it must be dreadful for the young."

"There" Mr Scott said triumphantly at the stroke of good fortune which had led him to both a Conservative waverer

and a namesake of the Prime Minister. "I told you so."

Earlier, before setting off from the nooks and crannies of the tiny former repertory theatre in Farnham which serves as his campaign headquarters, he had told a press conference that he had met many voters in this Conservative stronghold who were becoming increasingly disturbed at the extremism of the Prime Minister's attitude since last June's general election.

"She may preach the freedom of the individual, but she practices the destruction of that right," Mr Scott said. Unemployment, as well as cuts in education and the national health service, was making even relatively affluent people furious, he had found.

At the last election, Mr Maurice Macmillan, as he then was, secured a 14,351 vote majority over his Liberal opponent. But in 1974 the son of the former Conservative Prime Minister, who held the seat for 18 years, saw his majority fall to a mere 6,000 or so.

In a constituency which includes stockbroking communities such as Haslemere, with more first class rail commuters to London than any

other town in the country, that was a considerable setback.

Mr Scott, who Sir Robert describes as the best Liberal candidate Surrey south west has had in his time in the constituency, is fighting his first election. But not so Mrs Virginia Bottomley, aged 36, the attractive and articulate wife of Mr Peter Bottomley, Conservative MP for Elmham.

If you count the various times she has helped her husband (and her assistance is said to have been several hundred votes to him) this is her fifth parliamentary election.

In the week or so since her adoption from a huge field of prospective candidates a well-oiled local party machine has wheeled her to every corner of the constituency to meet members of the 35 Conservative branches.

"I feel very strongly that every candidate has to show he or she is worthy of winning," she said as she sipped a cool orange juice in the sun outside the Georgian splendour of one party stalwart.

"My first priority is to get myself in the constituency and to take time and trouble to work with local people on local issues."

Support for the Labour Party in Surrey, South West, fell to an all-time low of 8.2 per cent of the votes cast last June. Mrs Barbara Roche, aged 30, a barrister and union activist who is fighting in the constituency for the first time, has made little impact on the electorate. The best she can hope for is a modest increase in the share of the Labour vote.

General election, June, 1983: Macmillan, M. (C) 31,667; Scott, G. (L/All), 16,716; Williams, S. E. D. (Lab), 4,239; C majority 14,351.



Mrs Roche (left), fighting for Labour, Mr Scott, enthusiastic Liberal, and Mrs Bottomley, articulate Conservative

Grief at pithead after Yugoslav disaster



Reagan sets off by a restful route to visit the Chinese

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan is on his way to China, taking a restful four-day route through Hawaii and Guam. It will be his first visit to a communist country and the first to a nation whose system he has lambasted all his political life. White House officials talk excitedly about "the evolution in his thinking."

It is known, of course, as Mr Reagan's slow boat to China.

The change in atmosphere between the United States and China is one of the strangest foreign policy phenomena of the Administration. Mr Reagan's first two years in the White House were marked by bitter recriminations, principally over arms sales to Taiwan. His unceasing belligerence towards China was a factor in the resignation of Mr Alexander Haig, the former Secretary of State.

Remarkably, relations are now better than they were under President Carter. With an eye to the potential business market offered by a nation of a billion people, the President's ideological prejudices have given way to pragmatic politics and economics.

The President, who arrives in Peking on Thursday, will find that the Chinese leaders share many of his own strategic concerns about Soviet military expansion in the Pacific Basin region. The Chinese are also concerned about the Soviet-backed Vietnamese presence in Cambodia and the 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. The buildup of SS20 missiles in the Soviet Far East, many of them targeted towards China and Japan, is another worry.

As part of Mr Reagan's new realism towards China, he will be seeking a relationship built

on practical considerations of trade and technology transfer and the recognition of China's increasing importance in Asia. He will not be seeking strategic partnership with the Chinese - it is a sharp reversal of policy.

The turning point began slowly after August 1982, when the United States pledged steadily to reduce the quantity and quality of arms sales to Taiwan.

In talks with Mr Deng, Mr Reagan will emphasize America's concern about "state terrorism" and Soviet-backed aggression in Central America. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who will accompany the President, said: "We want to explain to the Chinese our view of the situation in Central America."

The trip, the first by an American President in nine years, is partly an election year event. Visiting the Great Wall has become something of a Presidential "must" - so much so that the US advance party insisted that scaffolding near the site to be visited by Mr Reagan should be dismantled. It would, they said, spoil the television pictures.

The Chinese, who sent 30 journalists when their leader came to America recently, seem somewhat bewildered by the hundreds of journalists and back-up teams.

The trip has been devised to avoid undue strain on Mr Reagan, who will have to cope with a 13-hour time difference. His aides do not want him to nod off, as he did briefly during an appearance with the Pope on a trip to Europe in 1982. On his way home he will meet the Pope again, in Fairbanks, Alaska, where the Papal aircraft will stop for refuelling on its way to Korea.

Israeli army investigates deaths of bus hijackers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Pressure is growing both inside Israel and abroad for an official investigation, or at the least, a full government explanation, of how two of the four young Palestinian guerrillas who hijacked a bus earlier this month were killed.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which claimed its men carried out the attack has asked the International Red Cross to investigate. Mr Yossi Sarid, a prominent member of Israel's opposition Labour Party, has demanded an inquiry.

Last night Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, said on Israel's army radio that the army was carrying out "a customary post-operational analysis" of events surrounding the hijacking drama, after which the facts would be made clear.

But he emphasized in an interview, the full version of which will be broadcast later today to coincide with the end of Passover, that he had no reason to doubt the veracity of official reports which had already been issued.

There is speculation that at least one of the guerrillas may have been captured alive and killed later. At least one

censored Israeli photograph shows a young Arab identified later both by relatives and other bus passengers as one of the four dead hijackers - being led away handcuffed.

The reluctance of the Israeli press to devote much space to the controversy was broken yesterday at *Ha-Arish*, the paper of the left-wing Mapam Party, which published a lead story (approved by the military censor), quoting "authorized senior sources" as stating that there was now no alternative to the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two of the four hijackers.

The story, which was given considerable prominence in the official translation service provided by the government press office, quoted the Israeli sources as insisting that there should be no abetting any "cover up" of a "disgusting act."

● BEIRUT: Christian and muslim militiamen exchanged machine gun and grenade fire yesterday near the closed highway that crosses the "green line" dividing Beirut. (Our Correspondent writes).

Hell's Angels muscle in on Olympic torch

From Iver Davis, Los Angeles

Embarrassed Los Angeles Olympic officials admitted that the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang will be part of the 15,000 kilometre run across the USA bearing the Olympic torch.

The Ventura branch of the club has paid the \$3,000 (£2,000) which entitles its members to run a leg carrying the flame to the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Mr George "Gus" Christie, president of the Ventura chapter, displayed a letter from

Olympic officials saying: "We are delighted that you are participating."

Groups willing to give \$3,000 to charity and agreeing to conform to regulations can run.

Officials admitted that the cheque sent to them said simply "H.A.M.C.U.S."

"I had no idea what it was," said an Olympic spokesman. The acronym stands for "Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club of the United States".

Cubans are killed by Unita bomb

A Unita bomb which exploded in the central Angolan city of Huambo killed a number of Cubans as well as Angolans and seriously injured many more (Our Foreign Staff writes).

A report by the Yugoslav agency Tanjug said about 20 Cubans and 10 Angolans were killed; Tass despatch from Luanda put the number of deaths at 100; and a Unita communiqué issued in Paris said its bomb had killed more than 200 people in a building occupied by Soviet and Cuban officers.

Unita claimed that among the dead were 37 Cuban senior officers and two Soviet lieutenant-colonels, but Tass and Tanjug said the victims were Cuban technicians, engineers, advisers and doctors with their wives and children.

AIDS cause 'has been found'

New York (Reuters) - French research has uncovered a virus that is the cause of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) disease. Dr James Mason, chief of the US Federal Centres for Disease Control, told *The New York Times* in an interview published yesterday.

He said researchers had discovered the virus at the Pasteur Institute in Paris last year. He predicted development of a diagnostic test for AIDS and a test to help in prevention. But production of a vaccine could take many more years.

Hope fades for Everest climber

Katmandu (AFP) - A Bulgarian team has failed to rescue Hristo Ivanov Prodanov, an engineer from Sofia, stranded at 27,884 ft after climbing Everest on Friday without oxygen. His chances of survival are thought to be slim, as strong winds and bad weather increased.

Mr Prodanov, aged 41, ran into difficulties on his way back to base and radioed for help.

Destroyer sinks blazing ship

Catagena (AP) - A Spanish Navy destroyer fired on and sank an 800-ton Greek cargo ship, the *Aretous*, adrift after a fire on board, port officials said here.

In London, the US Navy said helicopters from the Sixth Fleet rescued the crew of 10, which had abandoned the blazing ship and taken to a lifeboat.

Zanzibar vote

Zanzibar (Reuters) - Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the sole candidate, has been elected President of Zanzibar, taking 87.5 per cent in a "yes" or "no" vote to replace Abdul Jumebe, who resigned in January. The result was seen as a victory for those wanting Zanzibar to stay part of the Tanzanian union.

Tower tribute

Tokyo (AP) - A tower will be built at Japan's northern tip overlooking the Sea of Okhotsk in memory of the 269 people who died when Soviet fighters shot down a South Korean airliner last September.

Family suicide

Annonay (AP) - A 28-year-old French mother who openly talked of suicide after separation from her husband took her three young children and walked into a train tunnel near here where all four were killed by a goods train.

European notebook

Thatcher's intentions in question

Mrs Thatcher's determination to reform the EEC, forcefully expressed yet again in Lisbon last week, continues to send shivers of apprehension down the collective spine of the other member states.

However unpopular she has become among her fellow leaders, Mrs Thatcher continues to demand respect as one of the most powerful radicals in the Community. Her determination to win, backed by the fact that Britain holds the power to screw up the works if it fails to get its way, have led to reluctant acceptance of the fact that the Community can never be the same again.

There are those, such as the Italians, who view this with genuine regret. Its politicians tend to look back nostalgically to the good old days when Italy was the only poor member of a booming little rich man's Community.

There are those, such as West Germany, who recognize the need for change but who are wary, at this austere time, of paying for it.

But just what sort of change Britain is after arouses suspicion and worry. Everybody knows that Mrs Thatcher does not like spending "her money" in Europe, unless she can expect an excellent return on the investment. Everybody apparently fears that Britain remains spiritually an offshore European island with no real intention of involving itself in

the Community any more than it has to. These fears surfaced earlier this month at a meeting in Luxembourg between the 10 EEC foreign ministers and ministers from the seven European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. The meeting marked the tenth anniversary of the agreements between the two blocks, which had led from the start of this year to an end of all tariffs on industrial goods traded between them.

That meeting looked forward to even greater cooperation, breaking down technical barriers, harmonizing standards, eliminating state aid and unfair trading practices. These are the kind of objectives shared by everyone from Mr Tony Benn to Mr Enoch Powell by way of Mr Teddy Taylor.

And therein lies the seed of the suspicion that is sprouting widely in the Community: when Mrs Thatcher talks of change, does she not really mean the creation of a rather loose, convenient free trade area?

M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, was quick to make the point after the meeting between the EFTA and the EEC. It had to be understood "on the other side of the channel", he said, that the EEC went much further and meant much more than a mere free trade area.

It had common rules and regulations. It had a common

agricultural policy. It had a common parliament and a common budget. Its aim was not to build a fortress Europe as a trading block against the rest of the world, but to forge a common economy with a common purpose.

With EFTA locked into its free trade area, the EEC can claim to be part of the largest such system in the world, with over 300 million consumers. It is a market capable of dominating Japan and competing with the United States if only it could work together.

But EFTA, with three of its strongest members - Sweden, Switzerland and Austria - committed neutrals, could not be fully integrated without adding enormously and probably destructively, to the existing internal tensions.

This should provide at least one answer to those who doubt Mrs Thatcher's intentions on reform. There can be no member country more committed to the defence of Western Europe.

Sir Nicholas Henderson, when he was Ambassador in Paris, used to keep a map of northern France in his office, which was densely studded with little pins. When asked what they were he would explain that they marked British war cemeteries. "I keep that to show that Britain's involvement in Europe goes back well before the Treaty of Rome", he would say.

Ian Murray

Army chiefs' backing may clinch Duarte victory in Salvadorean election

From John Carlin, San Salvador

With presidential elections in El Salvador now less than two weeks away the political climate is unusually placid, partly because of the decorous inactivity which all parties respect at Easter and partly because of a growing sense that the result is a foregone conclusion.

The bloodbath which many had predicted for the interim period between the first round of elections on March 25 and the decisive run-off vote on May 6 failed to materialize, so far at least.

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson only claimed 29 per cent of the vote on March 25 and that, it seems, will not be enough to win in the head-on confrontation with Señor Jos Napoleón Duarte, who won 43 per cent of the vote first time round.

But Major D'Aubuisson's extreme right-wing supporters in the Nationalist Republican Alliance Party (Arena) have not embarked on the campaign of violent intimidation many had feared, possibly because it was tried and failed before the last poll.

The statisticians' cold analysis has been that Señor Duarte

must win. Last week he received news which in the eyes of all non-D'Aubuisson supporters - and even many of them - will clinch victory for him on May 6.

The leader of the party which came third in the first round, The National Conciliation Party (PCN), said he would stay neutral in the run-off. He would not throw his weight publicly behind Major D'Aubuisson, a prospect which Señor Duarte's Christian Democrat Party had feared might tip the balance in Arena's favour.

The PCN leader, Dr Francisco Guerrero, turned down four Cabinet posts which Major D'Aubuisson had offered his less extreme, but still very right-wing party, in exchange for his support. Dr Guerrero has said several times that Arena's ideology is "too radical, too intransigent".

A veteran political insider in El Salvador said last week, however, that Dr Guerrero's more pressing reason for turning down Major D'Aubuisson's offer was that it would effectively mean the absorption of

the PCN into Arena, putting an end to his own chances of reaching the presidency.

Señor Duarte also lobbied for Dr Guerrero's support but did not offer him any ministries in his likely future government.

Even more decisive than Dr Guerrero's support, Señor Duarte has the tacit backing of the Army high command, according to military sources.

The Army Chief of Staff, Colonel Adolfo Blandón, is not alone among his peers in reportedly resenting the prospect of a cashiered major, formerly of the National Guard branch of the security forces, becoming his commander-in-chief.

What is more, Colonel Blandón is said to believe that Major D'Aubuisson's grasp of the military situation in the four-and-a-half year civil war against left-wing guerrillas is so simplistic as to be potentially disastrous.

WASHINGTON: Two US Senators said that Señor Duarte told them he would seek negotiations with Nicaragua if elected. (The New York Times reports.)



Holy Year ends: The Pope closes the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica to end the extraordinary Holy Year of Redemption

Pope denounces torturers

Rome (AP) - The Pope in his Easter Sunday address to 350,000 pilgrims in St Peter's Square, denounced "torture and terrorism" the "destructive means of war" and the hunger suffered millions of people.

Pilgrims were still streaming into the square more than an hour after the start of the outdoor Mass. The celebration, before one of the largest crowds ever to gather in the square, was televised live to 36 countries under the direction of Franco Zeffirelli, the film director.

Later the Pope, dressed in white robes laced with gold,

closed the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, to end the extraordinary "Holy Year of Redemption". He gently pulled both sides of the door shut, as a crowd of spectators and photographers gathered around him.

He knelt in prayer for several minutes, and then listened as a chorus sang: "Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat". (Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ rules).

The crowd, watching in sunny, warm weather, was able to see from several hundred yards away by watching a giant television screen.

The Pope spoke of the "growing contrast" of "this our difficult modern age" during his traditional address "Ubi et orbi" (To the city of Rome and the world) delivered from the altar in front of the basilica after Mass. He contrasted the "ardent desire for peace and the feverish preparation of destructive means of war."

He said the "universal desire for the dignity of man and for his rights" must struggle against "brutal forms of arrogance and violence, of oppression of conscience, of torture and terrorism."

Bechtel accused of bribing Koreans for nuclear deals

Washington (Reuter) - The US Justice Department is investigating allegations that the giant Bechtel Corporation paid large amounts through a South Korean consultant between 1978 and 1980 to win nuclear plant contracts, according to government sources.

A department spokesman, Mr John Russell, denied at the weekend that any probe was being made into the actions of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State and the Defence Secretary Mr Caspar Weinberger, who were executives at the privately owned company during the period covered by the allegations.

Mr Russell also said he could neither confirm nor deny the investigation into Bechtel, a California construction company which is estimated to make \$10 billion a year.

In a brief statement issued by the State Department, Mr Shultz said: "That is a Bechtel matter and any statements made about it would appropriately be made by the Bechtel company."

The original allegations were made by a California environmentalist magazine, *Mother Jones*, which said Bechtel decided to compete for nuclear plant construction in South Korea in 1977 after Seoul said it planned to build 22 plants.

The magazine said Bechtel initially failed to win any contracts from South Korea. It then approached a Korean-American businessman reputed to have close connections with the government of the late President, Park Chung-Hee.

After the consultant was hired and tens of thousands of dollars were channelled to South Korean officials, Bechtel began to get contracts, the magazine said.

The sources said the Justice Department was investigating possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act which prohibits American companies from trying to obtain business by making payments to foreign officials.

Mr Shultz was vice-chairman of some Bechtel affiliates, including Bechtel Power Corporation, the company involved in South Korean bidding.

He later became president of the Bechtel group and visited South Korea in 1981. He joined the Reagan Administration in June, 1982.

Mr Weinberger was vice-president and general counsel of Bechtel Power and other company affiliates before joining the Cabinet in January 1981.

Bechtel has denied the bribery allegations.

Seoul expects Howe briefing on Hongkong

Seoul (AFP) - Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arrived here from Hongkong yesterday for a four-day official visit, during which he is expected to review political developments in northeast Asia with South Korean leaders.

Today he is to meet President Chun Doo Hwan, Mr Chin Lee-Chong, Prime Minister, Mr Lee Won Kyung, Foreign Minister, and Mr Jinn Jin Ho, Commerce and Industry Minister.

There are no outstanding issues between Britain and South Korea, except perhaps a trade imbalance of \$500,000 in Seoul's favour.

South Korean leaders are said to be expecting Sir Geoffrey to brief them on his discussions during his three-day visit to Peking last week.

He had talks there with Chinese leaders on the future of Hongkong on which China and Britain have been negotiating since September 1982. Sir Geoffrey extended his stay in Hongkong to keep in contact with London after the shooting at the Libyan People's Bureau on Tuesday. He cancelled plans to spend Easter on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

He is scheduled to leave for a two-day visit to Japan on Wednesday and to return home on April 27.

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On the road. **VOLVO**

Hindus take to arms as police fail to stop Sikh gunmen running riot

From Michael Hamlyn
Amritsar

Fifteen Sikh youths roared up the dusty street of Amritsar close to the border between Indian and Pakistani Punjab. They opened fire with Sterling sub-machine guns, aiming at turbanless Hindus and Hindu shops. After a few stunning seconds the bolder Hindus seized their ancient 12-bores and began looting off a few blasts of their own, and the raiders sped off.

Three Hindus were killed. Ten were quite badly hurt.

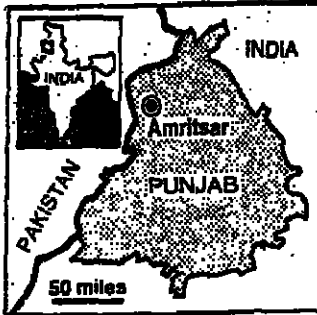
Amritsar is not much of a place. It is a T-junction, with a gaggle of shops and houses, 500 humans, a dozen or so starving dogs and around eight million flies populate it. The human population used to be evenly divided between the Sikh farmers and the Hindu traders, but not any longer. The Hindus are moving out.

"Look at this street," said a young Hindu, unwilling to give his name, but who supplies most of the place with eggs and chickens from his poultry farm. The street was narrow and empty. The sun, nearly vertically above, cast very little shadow. The houses were blind, windows shuttered and doors shackled. "Every day there was a crowd of children playing," he said. "Now no one lives here. They've all moved out."

Many of the people have moved to the neighbouring Hindu state of Haryana, he explained, though some have moved to what they see as the comparative safety of Amritsar.

"We are afraid of the Sikhs. Anyone can come again and do the same thing, and the police is doing nothing - have done nothing."

His mistrust of the police has reflected equally in Amritsar itself. There one of the leaders of the Hindu community, Dr



Punjabi demands, not simply Sikh demands," he said.

But Sant Bhindranwale makes no such concessions. He is out to put right what he sees as the sins of Hindu imperialism, which have crushed Sikhs, and are endangering Sikhism itself. He himself has been quoted as saying that if every Sikh killed 35 Hindus then Khalistan would automatically appear.

Certainly if the Hindus could be persuaded to leave Punjab the path to Khalistan would be easier. But that is not as easy as it sounds. For generations Sikhs and Hindus have intermarried. A Sikh may well have a Hindu mother or a Hindu wife. Some Hindu families raise one of their children as a Sikh in gratitude for some favour from the gods.

"How can they leave?" said Dr Sadhu Singh Hamdard, managing editor of the Sikh daily AITJ in Jalandhar. "My brother is a Hindu, my mother is a Hindu. How can we be separated?"

The Hindu businessmen too will find it difficult to sell up and leave the state, since few will want to buy their businesses and trade is declining.

Rajinder Kumar, one of the Amritsar villagers who was wounded when the Sikh terrorists rampaged through it, would have none of this. "No sir, there is no question of my staying out. I have just come back to sell my shop, repay some loans and take the rest to Haryana."

● DELHI: Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, remained tense after authorities extended a curfew due to have ended yesterday to six o'clock this morning (Reuters reports). The Press Trust of India said 114 Hindus and Sikhs had been arrested in Chandigarh since violence broke out last Wednesday at the funeral of a Hindu leader killed by Sikh extremists.

Ten years ago this week, the Portuguese armed forces overthrew the most durable authoritarian regime in Europe. In the first of three articles, Richard Wigg examines the revolution's legacy on the land.

The Amorcia da Torre estate in southern Portugal's vast Alentejo plains was one of the collectivized farms that Communist-led former day labourers liked to show off as an achievement of the revolution of April 25, 1974. When I was shown over it the big courtyard, hardly changed since the eighteenth century, was filled with heavy agricultural machinery from the Soviet Union.

When I returned I found that 720 acres, the so-called owners'



reserve under the 1977 post-revolutionary agrarian reform law, were back in the hands of the landowner's family.

Senhora Maria Praça Cunha, now widowed, assured me: "We cultivate this land more intensively now because then we had so much that it was not necessary to farm as now. There is no comparison between how we lived then and now."

"In the south change would not have come without the revolution. But afterwards things should be taken in hand more quickly and the law applied for rich and poor alike, without favouritism," a Catholic priest and member of Evora University's sociology department told me.

After the "hot summer" of 1975 almost 600 collective farms or cooperatives had taken over nearly three million acres of privately-owned land. By the end of last year the figures were down to 360 and about 1.2 million acres.

Even though the collectivizing tide was turned back, the Alentejo remains the place where the young captains' Revolution of the Carnations achieved structural changes, which was something rare in the revolution. An ancient regime was smashed, but a productive agriculture has not been put in its place.

"The 1977 law satisfies no one," Senhor Manuel da Silva, the Ministry of Agriculture's director general in the Alentejo region, admitted. "Neither the landowners nor the collective farms, the cooperatives nor the small farmers."

Portugal still has to import 60

Land reform and after Collective farms soldier on



Face of Alentejo: A shepherd on the profitable First of May collective farm

per cent of its food need, and, although almost one-third of the economically active population works still on the land, agriculture's share of the gross national product declined from 10 per cent in 1980 to 8.6 per cent in 1982, the last year for which figures are available.

The reinstated landowners proved loath last year to invest in stepping up productivity, alleging political insecurity and most of the communist collective farms, deprived of the credits they were granted in the 1975-79 period, are now in financial difficulties. An estimated 50,000 unemployed workers have returned to the Alentejo from the cities but only about half of the jobless landworkers receive unemployment pay.

Only about 20 the collective

farms are judged to be making a profit.

Such agricultural credit as Portugal's economy can muster is too costly, and a top-heavy agricultural bureaucracy hardly helps development.

Sitting down to the end of the week accounts, Senhor Manuel Linoli, a member of the management committee of a successful Socialist cooperative near here, formed in 1975 and now with 4,000 acres and 55 members, told me: "The revolution was very important for us, but the opportunities it offered were not sufficiently seized upon."

A former agricultural worker with a good head himself, he said people had not been prepared to work hard enough after the revolution.

Tomorrow: Radical nostalgia

Djilas given 18-hour jail reminder

By Dossa Trevisan

Mr Miklovan Djilas, Yugoslavia's outspoken critic of communism, told *The Times* by telephone yesterday that his 18-hour detention was clearly intended to serve notice to stay clear from politics as well as to remind him that there were limits to his activities.

Mr Djilas, who was detained on Friday together with 27 other Belgrade intellectuals gathered in a private home, was released without being charged. Conflicting reports from Belgrade indicate that most of the other were also released.

Police who raided the house, said that the intellectuals were detained under suspicion of intending to carrying out "hostile activities".

The police term is used for a variety of alleged political offences, but it clearly suggested growing official apprehension over criticism now being aired throughout the country and especially in intellectual circles.

The group is representative of all walks of intellectual life but it was the first time that Mr Djilas had been invited to attend such a meeting. He was to have spoken on the problem of Yugoslavia's nationalities.

It is likely that the authorities will leave it at that, and in fact Mr Djilas believes that most of those arrested would either be released without charge or at the most receive light fines or suspended sentences.

Mr Djilas, aged 73, formerly one of President Tito's closest associates, became Yugoslavia's most famous dissenter in the early 1950s, the first and only critic who came from within the innermost circle of the communist hierarchy.



Mr Djilas: Limits to his activities

For expressing his views in books and articles, he spent more than nine years in Tito's prisons and still continues to air his views fearlessly.

Denied publication in his own country, he publishes abroad. His latest book, the third volume of his autobiography entitled *Power* came out recently. Since his release from prison in 1967 he has lived relatively unmolested but isolated in his Belgrade home, speaking his mind and criticizing the regime. He sees the present Yugoslav situation as reaching an impasse and has been pleading fervently for democratic evolution ever since Tito's death.

The Government has resigned itself to his outspoken views, but it is obviously watchful of him, especially as in the more relaxed political climate of recent years he is no longer isolated from other dissidents.

The Government is obviously nervous that opposition might rally around him, and this is the main reason why the police interrupted the gathering last Friday.

Soap pistol trio flee top security Spanish prison

From Our Own Correspondent
Madrid

Spanish police were yesterday still without clues in the hunt for three prisoners who staged a spectacular escape from the country's maximum security jail.

Late as Good Friday the three used a piece of soap painted to look like a pistol to intimidate guards at Alcala prison near Madrid and fled through the deliveries entrance.

The three, all common criminals, were at Alcala because they had already made daring escapes from other Spanish jails last year.

Swedes steer clear of blaming Moscow

From Our Correspondent
Stockholm

The Swedish Navy's report on the latest submarine violation of Swedish waters, near the southern naval base of Karlskrona, will not name the Soviet Union as the aggressor.

Parts of the report, leaked to the influential *Social Democratic* newspaper *Stockholms Tidning*, confirmed that there had been a submarine in the bay off Karlskrona and that three frogmen at one stage had tried to land on an island.

A report last year blaming the Soviet Union for repeated submarine incursions caused a rift in relations

Big Sister's war on sex shops

From Christopher Mossey, Stockholm

George Orwell got it wrong, at least concerning Sweden. Here the person who is actually watching you in 1984 is Big Sister.

A militant women's group of self-styled "sex vigilantes" have begun taking photographs of men leaving sex shops in Stockholm which they then publish on posters under the slogan: "We can see you."

A sudden rash of such posters appeared over the Easter holiday in central Stockholm.

The caption under the picture of the surprised male customers reads: "Do you enjoy it when women are raped, whipped and murdered?" A reference to the increasing emphasis on sadomasochism, most of it now imported from the United States and West

Germany, in Swedish sex shops.

The Big Sister campaign follows a similar action last year in which the vigilantes published the registration numbers of cars spotted picking up prostitutes on Malmströmsgatan, Stockholm's "street of shame". They advised readers to telephone the registration authority for the name and address of the car's owner.

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Singapore Airlines is the only airline flying Stretched Upper Deck 747s from Heathrow to Singapore and Australia. Every day.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

THE ARTS

Illness means that Jean Anouilh will never see Michael Frayn's adaptation of his *Number One*, which opens at the Queen's in London tomorrow, but his faith in the power of theatre remains bright: interview by Bryan Appleyard

The self-contained secret of silence

A few months after finishing his play *Number One* Jean Anouilh had a heart attack but had just begun writing another play but had only completed a few pages. On leaving hospital he returned to his home in Lausanne knowing that life would never be the same again. He would be housebound, living under a constant threat and unable even to make the trip to Paris. He looked again at the few short pages he had written. They were good, they made him laugh, but he simply had no idea where to go next. Seven months later he still has no idea. At the age of 74 he has accepted the increasing likelihood that *Number One*, which London will see in Michael Frayn's adaptation at Queen's tomorrow, will be his last play. He does not seem saddened by the possibility.

"I have no particular desire to write anything more," he explains. "I would like the enjoyment of writing again. But if I did write something I would not necessarily want it performed. There's nothing left that I particularly want to say. In any case I've never been a writer with a message."

Anouilh's first professional production was *L'Hermine*, which ran for just 37 performances in Paris in the spring of 1932. Nevertheless the young man from Bordeaux was acknowledged as a significant new talent. Several productions followed, including *La Mandarine*, written when he was only 19, but it was not until the Pitoëff production of *Le Voyageur sans bagage* in 1937 that his early promise seemed to be fulfilled. His status shifted from precocious fringe practitioner to the mainstream inheritor of the tradition of Giraudoux and Salacrou, the contemporary masters of French theatre.

Since then he has remained a central figure in French drama, though never a static one. He has drifted in and out of fashion with regularity. When out of the French critics were characteristically vituperative, dismissing him as a populist trickster with no depth when compared to the politician and philosopher playwrights of the avant-garde. When in he was accepted as the master magician whose stagecraft and wit placed him alongside Molière.

The problem has always been his own single-minded anti-intellectualism and persistent denials that his plays had any meaning or significance at all. With *Le Voyageur* he had discovered his own

anti-realistic, playful form which refused to be pinned down and constantly laid him open to the charge that his work was insubstantial, lacking in any centre. He is unconcerned, indeed he clearly takes a mischievous delight in the role he had been allotted. In defiance of those who demand "relevance" of their drama, the one function he attributes to his plays is that they allow his audiences to forget for a couple of hours that they are going to die. His drama is a powerful, self-contained, self-alluding distraction.

"I've only ever written about the theatre. It's the only thing that's ever excited me. I love it because it is self-contained. In many ways it is more real than real life because real life has no order to it and theatre does. Even when there's mayhem on the stage it's still ordered and every play remains a view of life as it should be. Order enables us to see what we otherwise shouldn't see."

Anouilh's imagination is the only determinant of what we shall see. Yet once this mask slipped. It was during the German occupation of France and there was only one possible way of interpreting Anouilh's masterpiece *Antigone* - as a cry of defiance. When the curtain fell on the first performance, in February 1944, there was a deep silence and then uproar. The spectacle of Antigone's drive towards the perfection of the imagination being crushed by Creon's realpolitik was all too obvious in its implications for occupied France.

But even then Anouilh was not lured into a spurious commitment. The chorus at the end of the play noted: "Only the guards are left, and none of this matters to them. It's no skin off their noses. They go on playing cards."

With *Antigone* Anouilh confronted the ironic contrast between the life of the imagination and the life of the world. It has animated his work ever since. Yet in some ways he seems to regret the slightly cruel stance he adopted towards his characters in that play and feels that the persistence of this ironic mode may be a flaw in the rest of his work. Few would agree. The characteristic Anouilh obliqueness and poignancy arise precisely from the friction between the actual and the possible generated by his anti-realist and highly theatrical form of drama.

His plays always imply a resolution that life never offers.

"Real life is haphazard and confused. People say the wrong things. But theatre is a kind of elevated form of life - and that is where things work. In the theatre, not in life..."

Anouilh still suffers from the vagaries of fashion but the ebb-tide is now less vicious. His work is dissected by Ivy League academics and, hits or flops notwithstanding, he now bears the unmistakable aura of greatness. He speaks in slow, slightly grandiose French which discourages interruption and yet seems confiding and intimate. He looks frail and unsteady but oddly carefree. His house overlooks Lake Geneva and his large sitting room is illuminated entirely by the pale sunlight reflected off the water.

When we spoke the doctor had just left and he self-consciously had to swallow some pills with his tea: "I have to take these. I have no idea what they do." In the great tradition of French comic playwrights he finds the whole idea of a doctor somehow indescribably funny.

He is facing what he seems to accept as his last days with calm good humour. He has no particular thoughts about his condition and he dismisses a question about his religion: "That question should not really be asked." Yet throughout his conversation a dreamlike, almost mystical theme emerges in his relationship to his work. For example, there is the problem of how, given that his only subject is theatre itself, he comes up with any content at all.

"Nobody has ever asked me that before, but I am an honest man, I will try to answer. It may sound pretentious but I have a feeling when I write that it's as if there was a story which I have forgotten and I'm trying to rediscover. It's like when people tell you about a dream. It's very hard to put it together. You know it's there. It exists but you have to find it."

As if to enhance the dreamlike quality *Number One* itself produced startling evidence that life does indeed imitate art. The hero Leon - to be played in London by Leo McKern - is constantly being warned by his doctor of the dangers of his heart condition, yet Anouilh had no rational inkling of his own illness when he wrote it.

He is unmazed: "You never write what has happened, you always write what is going to happen. You're not clairvoyant, you just get a sense of things to come." But the subject makes him faintly shy and he dismisses the whole "mysterious" side of his work with a sentence: "I just fish in a big pond; sometimes I come up with a big mackerel, sometimes a little sprat."

He feels uncomfortable with such considerations because, above all, his one point is that the theatre works. His mechanics can somehow miraculously come together. Writing a play, he says, is nothing, putting it on is the real effort. By the first night the author is powerless. So Anouilh used to spend his time wandering around the audience, laughing when things went wrong. Yet, in spite of himself, an incurable itch prompts him to ask for details of the London production, which he will never see.

He approves the change in his ending which Michael Frayn has introduced. He nods happily when he hears of McKern's status in London and he pores over the rehearsal photographs. The point is that, when he says he believes in theatre, he means it. He loves the nuts and bolts, the huge effort needed to establish the most ephemeral artifice, and he even talks in terms of one commodity artists of his age and stature are supposed to have disregarded - success.

Number One itself revolves around the subject of egoism and is rationalized by Anouilh - probably some time after the event - as being an elaboration of his insight that "everyone with more or less subtlety or elegance is an egoist." But, if this seems for a moment to be a theme which can be separated from the theatrical obsession, then we are soon dragged back to the truth. Theatre is the cure for egoism.

"The theatre involves people in a way that is inescapable. With a novel you pick it up and put it down. But with theatre it's a collective experience. You are sitting there with other people. You forget about your own problems... People stop being egoists, they immerse themselves. The silence that you hear in the theatre, the silence of an attentive audience that is truly gripped, is unlike any other silence you will hear, even in the depths of the forest. It's stunning. Of course the applause is very nice... but the silence..."



Photograph of Jean Anouilh by Martine Franck

Dance

Romeo and Juliet

Covent Garden

I suppose there may have been occasions before now when Romeo and Juliet had to be brought out before the curtain to acknowledge otherwise unstoppable applause after the first act of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet, but if so it must have been long ago. It happened on Saturday night when Alessandra Ferri danced her first Juliet, with Wayne Eagling as her Romeo.

You will get some idea of what made their playing special if I say that, instead of reaching out to each other across the width of the Covent Garden stage at the end of that act, she on her balcony and he in the garden below, Ferri seemed almost about to dive from that height back into his arms - which might have been dangerous, since Eagling looked about to clamber up the pillar to join her.

Rarely can the adjective magnetic when applied to a person have been nearer to a literal interpretation: Ferri pulls eyes to her as readily as she impels her partner into a precipitate rush towards her. Besides, this was the role she most coveted, and as usual she has not so much put herself into the part as absorbed the character into herself, so that every gesture seems natural and spontaneous.

Not surprisingly, given her nature and that of MacMillan's ballet, this is a very hot-blooded Juliet who, after only the briefest moment of shyness when Paris takes her hand at the Capulets' ball, is quickly stealing a look at his face and deciding with some satisfaction that he is the best-looking man in the room - until she spots Romeo a few moments later.

She was fortunate, incidentally, in both partners: Julian Hosking an exceptionally sympathetic fiancé, Eagling a lover who has the same absolutely committed passion in his



Magnetic partnership: Ferri and Eagling

movements as she does. Elgar Howarth's account of the Prokofiev score, too, seemed to have more fire in it this time, or perhaps Ferri simply managed to make us hear and see everything around her a little differently.

Of course there is more than sensuality and passion to a Juliet, and the obvious qualities of Ferri's performance are consolidated by the underlying detail: the breathtaking beauty of the curves her limbs fall into when being promenade by a partner; the rubato she brings to her phrasing of familiar sequences, making them look unfamiliar; the daring with which, when about to fall from a turn into her partner's arms, instead of slowing she accelerates. Add a sense of horror,

when trying to drink Friar Laurence's potion, such as we have not seen since Lynn Seymour danced the part, and you have a Juliet who deserved the cheers.

There were some new casts in the triple bill on Saturday afternoon, too. Ravenna Tucker and Fiona Chadwick replaced Ferri and Bryony Brind, respectively, in Jiffi Kylan's *Return to the Strange Land*. Neither of them has quite the strangeness that the others bring to those roles, but both danced with understanding and clarity. In Balanchine's *Agon*, Pippa Wyldie at short notice made a gravely cool replacement for Brind in the long, marvellously evolving duet.

John Percival

Television

Melodramatic speculation

Jesus: The Evidence (Channel 4) arrived on cue at the Resurrection, and told the world what the world already knows - that the event echoes earlier myths of death and rebirth. One might be led to the assumption that it is somehow less significant as a result, but no doubt there are those who believe, on the contrary, that the Christian faith is stronger for having incorporated those enduring patterns which human beings wish to discover and to celebrate. Although this series has attempted to explain the "phenomenon" of Jesus and the survival of the organized church, it has done so principally by comparison with other prophets and other faiths, but in the process, it has not really addressed itself to the unique qualities of Christianity and its putative founder.

Once again the professors were introduced with their inventive "new theories", but their characteristic failure to produce real evidence in support of them only confirmed the late President Pompidou's belief that it is unwise to rely upon "experts". These programmes

have offered essentially pop scholarship, a form of intellectual muzac which muddled information with speculation, hypothesis with melodrama. The problem - and it is not one confined to this series - lies in the fact that, when you "pack-age" serious issues for the sake of a mass audience, the rigour and consistency needed to examine them are noticeable only by their absence.

The Clive James Screen Test (LWT) confirmed the suspicion that there is now more old television on the screen than new: television: like the Romans, it dies while gazing at its own entrails. This programme spotted the first apparent of the stars: Dustin Hoffman was advertising Volkswagens (neither, it seems, have changed), Joan Collins was beautiful once more, and various inhabitants of *Coronation Street* demonstrated just why it was that they ended up in that series. The slightly febrile pleasure derived from the exercise was similar to that of leafing through an old photograph album, although of course we know the "stars"

rather better than our own relatives. Clive James turned the pages and, as usual, the audience laughed relentlessly.

Vintage Moura (BBC1) celebrated the efforts of Moura Lympany to establish a festival in the small French village of Rasqueville where, previously, the only music came from the local café. She had come here to recuperate from illness, and the village has never recovered from the shock: now culture has descended upon it in the shape of Larry Adler and Elizabeth Harwood. In a building used to store wine (hence the programme's appalling title), and on a stage no bigger than a pocket handkerchief, eminent singers and musicians perform to apparently grateful villagers. It may not be quite the Edinburgh Festival but, unlike Edinburgh, all of the ingratious support the occasion.

This was a pleasant documentary, despite the fact that the oleaginous commentary brought back terrible memories of the cinematic travelogue. The region was beautiful, however.

Peter Ackroyd

MacMillan in his element

Kenneth MacMillan's choreography has a natural affinity with television. His stage ballets often look best in a medium that generally detracts from other people's dances, and he also seems to enjoy creating specially for it. His treatment of the Brecht/Weill Seven Deadly Sins for Granada, shown last night, falls somewhere between transfer and creation, being a substantial reworking of a subject he has twice before tackled on stage.

The most obvious difference is the addition of a long prologue, to music from *The Threepenny Opera*. It serves no very logical purpose dramatically, but it allows the director, Derek Bailey, to establish the

silent-movie style of the production and permits MacMillan to write in roles for Birgit Keil and Vladimir Kloss, two exceptionally photogenic and expressive dancers, as a couple refused entry to Brecht's brave new world.

After that, the main asset of the show is Alessandra Ferri as the dancing half of the two-faced heroine. With Juliet at Covent Garden too, it really was her weekend. The Louise Brooks wig adds piquancy to that vividly mobile face (besides making it easier to identify Ferri with her singing sister ego, the Australian soprano Marie Angé).

No doubt that many viewers followed the ramifications of

the plot, which is partly Brecht's fault. But Weill's music, neatly pointed by a strong male quartet (Robin Leggate, Robert Tear, Stephen Roberts and John Tomlinson) and the London Sinfonietta under David Atherton, eases the disparate and sometimes curious episodes on their way.

That, and the ubiquitous, innocently sexy presence of Ferri, ravishingly displayed in a series of exquisite garments by Yolanda Sonnabend, responding to every misadventure with dogged enthusiasm. I am not sure whether even she really knew what it was all about, but she made it most plausible.

John Percival

Concert

LCS/Glover

Festival Hall

At last Jane Glover has shown it is possible for a large choral society to work with a modest orchestra and make musical sense. Of course, it is possible that *Messiah* is a special case; the only great musical work of which the text has become part of our language, and whose words therefore will carry the piece through any amount of musical transmutation. But no, to argue so would be to qualify the fine achievement on Friday of Dr Glover, her singers and the English Chamber Orchestra in giving such a lively and humane performance.

Dr Glover's work at Glynebourn has proved her to be an outstanding trainer of choirs, and it was through discipline that the LCS here were brought to operate on a scale with an orchestra they dwarfed. The

effect, though, was not all mechanical.

The lesson throughout was the very baroque one that decisive style is not a handicap to artistic expression but is its guarantor. And the ECO responded in similar terms with their licking flames for the "refiner's fire", their shimmering haloes, and their painful, detached playing for the tenor's "Thou shalt break them".

Anthony Rolfe Johnson was in magnificent clarion voice for this and his other airs. Yvonne Kenny also added distinction to the occasion, illuminating the soprano solos with a radiant trickle of silver, and making her affirmations through pure beauty of singing, without unwanted personal fervour. Linda Finnie had lost the assurance of her bottom register, but Stephen Roberts was a firm and forthright bass, splendidly decorating the repeat of "The trumpet shall sound" to make it a war-cry.

Paul Griffiths

Turandot

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

Tony Palmer has solved the riddles of *Turandot* by discovering in it the story of Puccini and his housemaid.

This is not as silly as perhaps it sounds. The connection between Liu and the unfortunate Doria Manfredi, who killed herself under the burden of her mistress's accusations of immorality, is inescapable. But to bring it out on stage risks the banality of converting art back into experience, the fearful limitation of proposing a single viewpoint on the work, and the reckless danger of meddling with the stagecraft of a composer who knows his business pretty thoroughly by this point in his career.

Mr Palmer, unabashed, goes ahead. Calaf-Puccini and Liu-

Doria are confined all the time to a corner of the stage kitted out as the composer's drawing room, he in smoking jacket and dressing gown, she in servant's uniform. China is evoked only in the masks, wigs and costumes of the chorus, and even then evoked as a grim shadow, with charcoal grey the predominant colour. *Turandot* is in bridal attire, her father is a European constitutional monarch.

Ping, Pang and Pong, though, come off rather well, as down-at-heel eccentric clerks of the 1920s. They are also keenly sung by Alan Oke, Hugh Harrington and Gordon Christie. Their long scene in the second act is for once the dramatic high point of the opera with the three of them sitting lazily on swings and providing a welcome contrast with so much portentous sombreness elsewhere.

This must, indeed, be the

Opera

least spectacular *Turandot* ever seen, though Mr Palmer is not averse to adding his own justifications when there is a gap to fill.

The jugglers who rush on for a two-minute spot in the royal procession are embarrassingly pointless, and I am sure Puccini would have given imperial China a Good Friday procession at the end of this act if he had wanted it. Presumably we are being reminded of *Tosca*, just as Liu becomes Cio-Cio-San for her demise.

The result of so much shoddy thinking is a shoddy staging. It comes, too, with the addition of echoing amplification that is a detestable vulgarity when it is used with so little finesse, and that is certainly not needed at the end, the abbreviated end, as again Mr Palmer's article on this page last week intimated.

Sir Alexander Gibson, conducting what was Scottish Opera's 2,000th performance,

proves he can make the orchestra clamorous and barbaric without electronic assistance. He also compensates for the lack of colour on stage by bringing out all the score's metallic brilliance.

Ludmila Andrew, an experienced *Turandot*, stepped bravely and resolutely into the breach left by Linda Esther Gray's last-minute indisposition. Marie Slorach is a strong, true and very appealing Liu, and Eduardo Alvares copes well with the problems of having to look distracted by guilt the whole time while singing with admirable freedom and clear lyrical tone.

One also feels for Willard White's sympathetic Timur, done up as the local priest.

Paul Griffiths

E. J. Craddock's Publishing column will appear tomorrow

Theatre

Passion Play

Wyndham's

Even had it not collected the Best Play of the Year Award in 1981, the withdrawal of Peter Nichols's marvellous piece from the RSC repertoire long before it had reached its potential audience ranks as a signal act of injustice which, at last, has been rectified by this fine Theatre of Comedy revival under the same director, Mike Ockrent.

It would be to invite Nichols's own derision to describe this study of adultery among the middle-class art community as a universal masterpiece. But for anyone who has innocently gone out for a walk with change for a claudine phone call, or found that every deception infallibly comes home to roost, or has been branded an incurable liar, *Passion Play* tells more about the inner panic and miserable manoeuvres of extra-marital sex than any play previously seen on the English stage.

James and Elinor are a blamelessly constant married couple who have seen their grown-up children off the premises and now have the house and the rest of their lives to themselves. He restores paintings, she sings in a choir; they tell each other everything and are still happy in the same bed. Enter the fatal Kate, a husband-snatcher younger than James's daughter, who propositions him over a restaurant table and gets her tongue down his throat by the end of the meal. The sexually timid James omits to mention this amusing episode to his wife; at which point James B, his alter ego, bursts on the scene to make sure he gets his story right. With the onset of lies the character splits in two and the comedy begins.

If, that is, you can call it comedy. The play overflows with the kind of ironic echoes, hideously plausible coincidences, expertly planted discoveries that usually generate a comic impact; in this production the experience is too searing to

invite more than the most nervous laughter. Once Elinor has discovered the affair and acquired her own alter ego, the shock of recognition strikes with repeated and pulverizing force; and the lines seem less the work of an original dramatist than echoes from the pitifully limited vocabulary of people who get themselves into this mess.

The casting is much harsher than in the 1981 version. Leslie Phillips's James exudes false ingratiation and besotted appetite with a humiliated timidity matched only by Barry Foster's panic-stricken strategies as his other self. The pain and violent reprisals of Judy Parfitt and Zena Walker likewise hit you dead between the eyes.

Irving Wardle



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SPECTRUM

In the Queen's long reign there can have been few stranger tributes to her than Lilibet
— an account of her early years in verse by a poet laureate manqué who wishes to remain anonymous

The poem proceeds from the birth of the Princess, through the Abdication and her marriage, to the Coronation



A BABY DESTIN'D

Midnight in Mayfair. Hush'd are the dark bricks
In Bruton Street of Number Seventeen.
Inside, the long-case clock sedately ticks.
Outside, a car draws up, and there is seen
Home Secretary, Sir William Joynton Hicks.
Softly he enters. Little doth he ween
There ere the hall clock strikes the hour of three
A future monarch he is going to see.

Hail to the Princess who, ere break of dawn
Salutes Sir William with an infant squawk!
April the Twenty-First. Hail happy morn!
A loyal Empire echoes to the talk.
King George I's first grandchild has been born.
Child to the fair Elizabeth of York.
Sleep on, sweet babe, the sun is shining yet
Upon thy grandsire's Empire-LILIBET!

In naming thee, Bright Destiny hath shewn
What yet is hid from mortals' sceptic view:
A new Elizabeth for Alphon's throne:
An Alexandra, type of spouse most true.
Her Empress grand-dame next the child would own:
Her third great name outshines the other two:
MARY! Celestial Queen and Mother Mild.
A worthy Patron for a Royal Child.

And now, who comes, the royal babe to greet?
The Prince of Wales, her father's elder brother.
Smiles sadly as he drives down Bruton Street:
No wife is his. The heir's born to another.
Queen Mary says, and tweaks the infant feet:
"I wish you look'd more like your little mother."
And palely, handsome, standing at her side,
The Duke of York's weak with paternal pride.

"Oh here comes the bambino!" is the cry
Of proud Queen Mary, when she comes to call.
"So like the dear Prince Consort, though the eye
"Is Bertie's image — there's no doubt at all!"
Here is a baby destin'd — who knows why?
To walk at once, and never choose to crawl:
Reflecting in her stately head and neck
VICTORIA and Princess May of Teck.

On with my tale! though long a Bard could sit
To pen the infant darling's thousand charms.
Lord Strathmore's house in Bruton Street was quit
When LILIBET was still a babe in arms.
The Duke and Duchess took her, as was fit,
To see her "little mother's" house in Glamis:
The baby gurgled safe inside that house
While dukes and earls paced out to shoot the grouse.



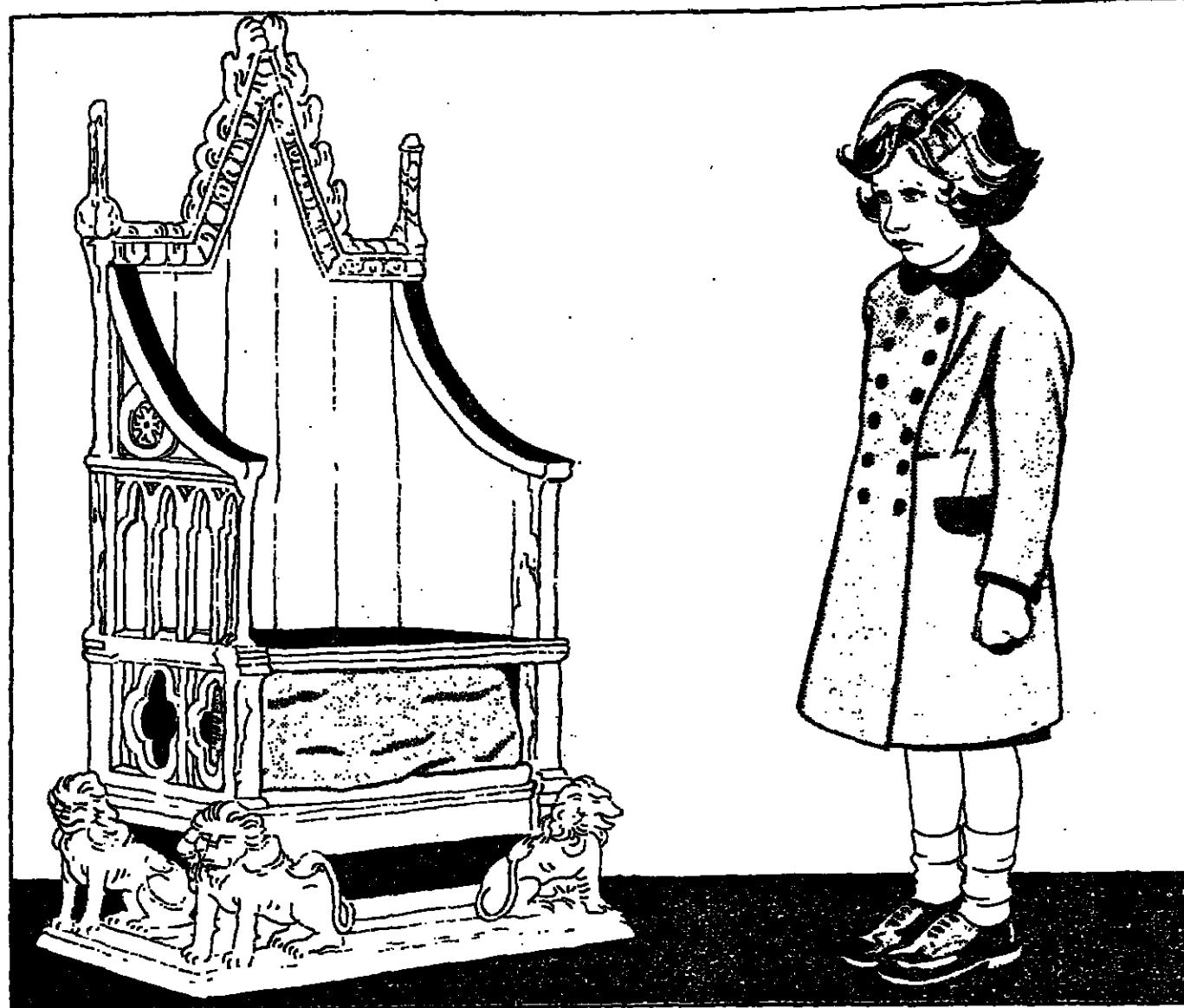
O PICCADILLY DAYS

At six years old, whenever she was able,
She groom'd her thirty horses, water'd, fed;
Fix'd and remov'd their bridles; brush'd their sable.
Comb'd ev'ry tail and patted every head.
The nursery landing was their airy stable:
They ran on wheels wherever they were led.
And Crawfie, too, to please the little groom,
With bit and reins would canter round the room.

Sometimes, with noses press'd against the glass,
Down into Piccadilly they would stare:
Two rain-drench'd weary drays might sometimes pass
Or coster's pony, dazzl'd by the glare:
Or dairy horses, weighed with straps and brass
Would sadly clip-clop through the foggy air.
Then LILIBET would sigh and think with pity
Of all the hard-work'd horses in that city.

"Crawfie", she said, "if I am ever Queen,
I will protect the dobbie and the dray.
No working horse on Sunday will be seen.
Horses, like men, deserve a Sabbath day.
Docking a pony's tail is cruel and mean.
That will be outlaw'd. Harkens what I say."
And Crawfie smil'd to hear the lisping word:
The Goddess FORTUNE also smil'd — and heard.

O Piccadilly days, why need they end?
The walks with Crawfie in St James's Park:
Sometimes an eye would turn, a head would bend,
But oftentimes each outing, game or lark.



Would pass unnoticed; LILIBET could spend
Her shilling's pocket-money without mark
From shopkeeper, or children in the street.
The thousands she could never hope to meet.

Plain London Transport was a cherish'd toy:
A bus ride-top floor — was the merriest lark.
"Tot'nham Court Road. A single." Oh, what joy!
To say those brave words to a booking clerk.
And whizz, like any other girl or boy
From place to place by railway in the dark.
Dear transitory joys, too soon curtail'd
When cameramen the young Princesses trail'd.

More than to most, the growing Princess hooks
Her heart to Uncle David, Prince of Wales.
His sense of fun; his wonderful good looks.
His jokes, his clothes, his funny trav'lers-tales.
Yet, as he reads aloud her fav'rite books:
Black Beauty, A. A. Milne — his laughter fails:
A soldier's life is terrible hard, says Alice.
More than the Guard is changing at the Palace.



FREEDOM, FAREWELL

In Windsor, at The Royal Lodge, the word
Arriv'd by telegram one winter day.
Alone with her toy horses when she heard,
LILIBET paus'd: "Oh, Crawfie, should we play?"
She sens'd a mighty passing had occur'd:
With dignity, she put her toys away.
Marg'ret play'd doughts and crosses in the hall.
The wireless crackl'd the Dead March from Saul.

Nothing is restful since King George has died.
The servants whisper, Mummie looks so sad.
Marg'ret heard Grannie talk of "England's pride"
And said she heard their father murmur "cad".
Who did it mean, when Mummie then replied:
"Not marry her? He must be going mad!"
Crawfie had blush'd when ask'd, and sort of frown'd.
Oh, when is Uncle David to be crown'd?

One Sunday at Roy's Lodge, uneasy fear
Began to turn to sickening alarm.
A car came over from Fort Belvedere:
Out stepped a woman, holding Uncle's arm.
But still to LILIBET 'twas far from clear
Why Mummie, who was usually so calm,
Sent the Princesses to the garden's end.
Lest they should talk to Uncle David's friend.

Later, the stricken mother would endeavour
To break the news to her bewilder'd child.
"Your Uncle David, usually so clever,
"Has been by an American beguill'd."
"He must away." "Oh, Mummie — not forever!"
Bravely, and through her flu, the Duchess smil'd.
And while the Duchess with her daughter frets,
Downstairs, the air is thick with cigarettes.

The two Princesses hug their poor Papa,
Accoutred as an Admiral of the Fleet.
The ashtray smoulders. Out towards the car.
They hear him pacing with uneasy feet.
The morning lingers. Has some evil star
Blighted their lives? They feel too sad to eat.
Lunchcon: The door has opened with a fling.
LILIBET curtsies to her Lord and King.

Farewell their happy life at 143!
Farewell the schoolroom and the coloured chalk.
The times when "Grandpa England" was alive,
And when her father was the Duke of York.
Freedom, farewell. No more will she arrive
By bus from Tot'nham at St James's Walk.
Around the Palace stretch those yards of rail.
She shudders, as though entering a gaol.



ALL BOYS SAVE ONE

In those last months of Peace, a meeting chanc'd
Which chang'd the Nation's future Destiny.
The Fates conspir'd: not blindly Cupid danc'd.
Victoria and Alibi cruiss'd the sea.
The August sunshine, and fresh wind enhanc'd
The visit of the Royal Family
To Dartmouth Naval College, to perfection
Drill'd for an expert sailor-King's inspection.

But, as they climb'd the steps, the message came:
"Two boys have mumps. The doctors all advise
"The young Princess should not catch the same."
Mummie agreed such caution did seem wise.
Marg'ret scowl'd. Her sister show'd her shame
At being thought a child, with angry eyes.
But Crawfie took th'indignant "little ones"
To tea with the Dalrymple-Hamiltons.

A clockwork railway on a nursery floor.
Where knelt a handsome boy of eighteen years.
If they had fear'd today would be a bore.
Forgot at once are the Princesses' fears.
He stood up when he saw them at the door:
LILIBET felt her eyes had fill'd with tears.
She wish'd she did not have this silly hat on.
"We've never met. My name's Philip Mountbatten".

At first their greeting was a little staid
But Philip soon began his easy quips.
Over the ginger nuts and lemonade.
He told them all they'd need to know of ships.
Then he ask'd LILIBET if she had play'd
Tennis in his way. Out she gaily skips
To watch, then join him in exuberant sports.
He leaps the nets and runs about the courts.

"O, Crawfie, he can jump so very high!"
LILIBET says before she goes to bed.
Next day, O worthy of a royal sigh.
Another vision of that proud blonde head.
Next day, he came to lunch, and why O why
Did she not write down all he did and said?
For, deep inside her soul, she feels a peace
And sighs with longing for The Prince of Greece.

On thy dear banks, illustrious River Dart,
At thirteen years, fair LILIBET began
To know with certainty within her heart
That she could only truly love one man.
How sad she feels, next day when they must part.
Can one so young be sure? This Princess can.
"How red she is. I wonder is she's hot?"
The Queen remarks, back on the Royal Yacht.

From Dartmouth then the Royal Yacht sail'd forth,
But not alone, for following in their track,
A host of small boats risk'd a sov'reign's wrath
By bobbing close in many a daring tack.
The King said crossly to Sir Dudley North,
"It is absurd — unsafe — they must go back."
A sharp retort was sent in semaphore.
And soon the boys were rowing back to shore.

All boys save one: his heart was tied by th' strings
To the majestic rudder on the main.
No ordinance, no order of the King's
Could stop him glimpsing LILIBET again.

"Young fool!" George stammered. "Boys who do such things..."
The sentence died in fury and in pain.
But, with binoculars around her neck,
LILIBET gaz'd, till Philip was a speck.



A FUTURE QUEEN

Only twelve years before, The Abdication
Threaten'd the future of the Monarchy.
But now is born another generation,
Bringing a sense of strong security
To Crown, to Commonwealth and to the Nation.
The baby shows forth, unequivocally.
However black its former faults or sins are,
There is a future for the House of Windsor.

The adulation and the public joy
Make of this peaceful birth a grand event.
For LILIBET, the handsome little boy
Has brought into her heart a deep content.
Which even the King's illness can't destroy.
And happy, private hours with Charles are spent.
Margaret loves him too, although she can't
Enjoy the appellation, Charles's Aunt.

Turn back the albums and the picture-books:
The Trooping of the Colour '51.
How ev'ry inch a future Queen she looks,
Upright on Winston, clopping one by one
Past guardsmen. She no kind of slackness brooks:
As though she saw each medal, sword and gun;
As though King George the Fifth's exacting eye
Fell on the soldiers as that girl rode by.

Tir'd by disease, and war, and deprivation,
The world receives her as a novelty.
A perfect image for a jaded nation
Who seeks again its vanish'd sense of duty:
A Princess whose unflinching dedication
Shines forth in fresh-complexion'd child-like beauty.
So, as The King declines into the grave,
They look to LILIBET to guide and save.

A simple truth upon the world has burst,
That sees her in The Mall upon her cob:
So pos'd, so strong, so perfectly rehears'd.
She rides in state before the awe-struck mob:
That never, since Elizabeth the First
Was born a monarch so good at her job.
This ride of dignity makes clear to all
ELIZABETH will be professional.

THE KING IS DEAD

King George the Sixth was coughing badly — very.
Doctors suggested Durham for the sun.
He'd take young Peter Townsend, that equerry
Whom Margaret found such terrific fun.
Christmas in London wasn't all that merry.
It lack'd the gusto of a Norfolk one.

Sandringham: every Christmas in the past
Was spent there by King George, except his last.

LILIBET felt uneasy. It was horrific
To know that one day soon, The King would die.
He took them, their last week, to South Pacific.
And "Some Enchanted Evening" made them cry.
But, next day, at the airport, no specific
Meaning seem'd to fix'd to his subdu'd goodbye.
The plane was there. LILIBET clamber'd on.
He wav'd his last weak wave, and she was gone.

At Sandringham, the King is shooting hare.
The beaters follow, anxious not to lag.
Beneath a large blue sky, he breathes crisp air;
Nor do his energies appear to flag.
The company was good, the sport was fair:
Two hundred hares and eighty were the bag.
How cold and stiff the rows of corpses are:
He shivers as he strolls back to the car.

Dinner as usual; and his weary face
Beneath the glare of the electric light
Is animated as, soon after grace,
He tells of how he got a left and right.
Then tiring, he sinks back into his place
And acquiesces in an early night.
One final cigarette, "Goodnight", he said,
And went to drink his chocolate in bed.

Goodnight, sweet Prince! The earth rolls on to dawn.
While from your shoulders, slumber lifts the load
Which you, with hardship, have so bravely borne.
Go out into the dark upon that road.
O CHRISTIAN soul! which leads to God's bright morn.
The earthly sun is gone, but by and by
Will rise and blazen in the Kenya sky.

It glistens now on the Saguna Water.
And penetrates the woods of Aberdare.
Where stirs the dying King's beloved daughter
To taste the freshness of the morning air.
And all the King had, by example, taught her
Is needed by that waking Princess there.
Where is thy bitterness and sting, O DEATH?
Arise, unheeding, QUEEN ELIZABETH!

Treetops Hotel, and from a balcony,
Binoculars train'd on the water-buck.
She talks to friends of fishing: playfully
Boasting of catch that day, "Beginner's luck".
No one replies. Philip approaches. He
Seems oddly silent. He's not often stuck
For words. His face is drawn with silent gloom.
He takes her arm, and leads her to her room.

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9 In test tube (2,5)	4 Power behind throne (8,5)
10 Genealogical table (8)	5 Exist (4)
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MONDAY PAGE

Out of the running?

In an age of innocence, all arrangements for Olympic selection were serenely straightforward. The lady runners of Britain knew precisely where they stood and where they were going. A balance of competing interests had evolved over many years so refined and universally understood, that it would have delighted Metternich.

Everybody knew that Wendy Sly would be selected to run for Britain in the 3,000 metres race in the Los Angeles Olympics in August. She is the British record holder with a time of 8 mins 37.06 secs (the world's record is 8 mins 26.78 secs). So she accounted for one of the three places on the British team for that event. Jane Furniss was expected to take the second place since she has recently been placed seventh in the world with a time of 8 mins 45.69 secs.

That left one place on the team and seven young women, all of whom have



The arrival in Britain of Zola Budd (left) may have dashed the Olympic aims of seven girls. Neil Lyndon reports on two of the hopefuls

run within the Olympic qualifying time of 9 mins 5 secs, competing for it. They expected to settle the dispute at the British Olympic trial in June. Ruth Smeeth, Christine Benning, Kathryn Carter, Debbie Peel, Christina Boxer, Gillian Green and Paula Fudge were all like emerging Balkan states encircling the powers of Sly and Furniss. They knew where they were: they were all in with a chance of going to Los Angeles.

Then came Zola Budd. Running in South Africa, this 17-year-old has recorded a time of 8 mins 37.50 secs. If she can reproduce that form in Britain, having been transplanted by the *Daily Mail* at a cost of about £200,000, and if she can satisfy the governing bodies of athletics that she is qualified by birth and residence to be selected, then Miss Budd is most likely to take the second of the three places on the British team. If Jane

Furniss takes the third place, the seven remaining girls will all find that their training has been futile.

"What kind of sense does it make to spend £200,000 on trying to buy Britain one gold medal when the same amount of money spread evenly among 10 athletes might produce five medals", asked an observer of women's middle-distance running. "This is one of the most neglected of all fields of athletics. The spending of £200,000 causes a massive distortion."

According to one of the women in competition with Miss Budd, women middle-distance runners do not usually reach their peak until their mid-to-late twenties. Since interest and commercial sponsorship is normally concentrated upon the young and promising, middle distance runners attract neither interest nor loot. Miss Budd, therefore, is like an alien from another planet.

DEBBIE PEEL

'Her chances are not the same'

Zola Budd has made a difference to Debbie and David Peel. They are not complaining - they are not the complaining kind - but the truth is that their domestic arrangements would now be much more prosperous and less exacting if Zola Budd's arrival in Britain could have been foretold six months ago.

David said: "At the end of last season, we looked at the future as carefully as we could and it seemed to us then that Debbie had a 50/50 chance of getting selected for the Olympics."

"We thought that we should put everything we could into improving her chances: so Debbie gave up work for six months to concentrate on her training. We can manage without her income for that short time; but only just. It really is pretty tight. I'm not sure that we would have made the same decision if we'd known that Zola was going to come into the picture because, obviously, Debbie's chances now are not the same as they were."

The mighty river of athletics sponsorship narrows to a tiny tributary trickling into the close of small modern houses near Gatwick Airport where Debbie and David live. Unigate gives them two free pints of milk a day. "Bless them", said Debbie. "It doesn't sound much, but it's a real boon." And she is given track shoes and training kit by sports equipment company Nike. "Again, I don't know how we'd manage without them."

These two small subsidies, worth about £500 together, are the sum total of aid that Debbie receives in her efforts to gain a place in the British team to run in the women's



Subsidies enable Debbie Peel to concentrate full-time on her build-up to the Olympics, helped by her husband David. But she would not have given up her job if Zola Budd was in contention six months ago.

3000 metres race in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles this summer.

She could be a real contender. She has been the women's AAA champion and her personal best time of 8 mins 50.52 secs is comfortably within the Olympic qualifying time. Her performances have improved dramatically over the last five years, since she first broke 11 minutes. "I was a bit of a scrubber, really. I was always last, always. So it doesn't frighten me to come from behind in a race. That

might be an advantage this year."

Her husband David, who works for the electricity board, is not only her principal sponsor since she took unpaid leave from her job as a data control clerk: he is also her coach. They have been running together for 10 years, since they met at Hayward's Heath when Debbie was 15 and David 21. He supervises the second and most strenuous of her two daily training sessions. She runs five or six miles alone in the morning "mainly to ease off the

exertions of the previous evening's session". When David comes home from work they go out together with a group of men and run another six miles. "The men make no concessions: that's good for me." Or they go to the track and run "repetitions", a gruelling succession of eight sprints over 200 or 400 metres.

They know how the competition should be settled for the three British places in the 3000 metres race: "The first three women over

the line at the trials race, regardless of who they are, should go to Los Angeles", David said.

Debbie hopes, above all, that some official will make it his business to tell the selected and rejected runners their fate quickly and in person. "There's nothing worse than waiting by the telephone and then hearing the news from a neighbour who's seen it on the television or read it in a paper. That happens."

RUTH SMEETH

'I've got to beat my fastest rival'

It is Ruth Smeeth's settled intention to be first over the line in the Olympics trials. "I just tell myself that I've got to beat my fastest rivals. At the moment, that's Wendy Sly. So if I can beat her - if she is the fastest - I won't have to worry about anybody else."

Zola Budd is a spectral presence in Ruth Smeeth's conversation, but she does not enter by name. Neither does Miss Budd's materialization in the lists of her rivals appear to have unsettled Ruth's emotional equanimity or the clarity of her plans. "I know that I've got to knock 10 seconds off my personal-best time to feel really confident of going to Los Angeles; and I'm going to need to lose six pounds in weight. Of the two, the six pounds is the more difficult."

As athletes go, she is an abnormally self-possessed, independent-minded character, qualities which declare themselves in her clothes and in her arrangements for work. The leather trousers, the ardeco patterned pullover and the nifty haircut all tell of an awareness of self and of the outer world which is not commonly shared by athletes. She works as a freelance technical illustrator on a "flexitime" contract for a company in Alton, Hampshire; and she also teaches part-time at a local technical college. "I work when I need to or when I want to. The

advantage is that I don't have to get up at 6.30 to go training. And if it's raining I can perhaps wait until it stops. I hate getting my feet wet."

Ruth's training routines are identical to Debbie Peel's. However, she likes to achieve in her training a kind of evacuation of consciousness. "Sometimes I get in after running six miles and think 'God, I can't remember anything about it'. I think training's best when it's like that: unconscious."

She lost the mental engine which had powered her running when her father died and it has taken her some 18 months to find her place again. "He was really the centre of my life and he was an enormous help to me, mentally, in my races. But I'm not running and trying to win for him any longer. I won the women's national cross-country for him, but that's over now. I'm running for me now."

She has been to Los Angeles and stood on the track there and thought "I could be running here in the Olympics". But she has not allowed her mind to dwell upon thoughts of Los Angeles: or upon thoughts of failing to be selected. "I'm just concentrating on the British championships in May and the Olympic trials. I haven't thought any further than those races and gearing myself up to beat everybody in them."

PENNY PERRICK

Babies should sprout, Brussels says



The people who brought you the wine lake and the butter mountain are now all set to provide you with their latest extravagance - a baby boom. At the request of Euro MPs, the EEC may now adopt "practical measures" to bump up the European birthrate, which is somewhat in decline. In 1950, it was 8.8 per cent of the world figure; by 2025, unless the EEC has its way with women, it will be a mere 2.3 per cent.

Yet, although the Commission has a dazzling record at whipping up a surfeit, I doubt that it will be able to coax more babies into the world. Tougher regimes have tried and failed, such as the Romanian government which, in spite of penalizing women who have abortions and taxing the unproductive, it has not produced higher numbers of little Romanians. Gentler rulers have tried and failed, too. French women have been variously cajoled with free layettes, increased family allowances and citations from the mayor if they shut their eyes and think of La France, but still the birthrate has slumped.

The average European couple seems to have settled for 1.4 children, and it isn't hard to see why. People, reasonably enough, tend to want the most desirable life that's within their grasp, and bringing up a large family, these days, certainly doesn't offer that.

Female fulfilment seems no longer to be a matter of having babies, whereas female poverty seems very closely linked with motherhood. While most people have been enjoying rising living standards, those with young children have, over the last 13 years, faced a decline. The well-off family today may consist of a man whose wage is only average but whose childless wife works full-time. The poor family may be a man earning exactly the same salary but whose wife cannot work, or can only work part-time, because of the demands of child-raising.

If the EEC is genuinely concerned about a baby shortage, it should take steps to see that women are either recompensed for loss of earnings or that childcare facilities are such as to enable a family with children to be a family living off the fruit of two incomes.

More money would certainly

make motherhood a nicer prospect, and so would more help. A recent EEC committee, chaired by Signora Ciniardi Rodano, an Italian communist, noted "an increasing return to a division of family and social tasks", while, earlier this year, a Gallup poll in Britain showed that few men were much help around the house. Whether their wives worked or not, and whether they had children or not, all that most husbands were good for was serving drinks (44 per cent) and mowing the lawn (45 per cent).

If the Commission could arrange things so that men did their share of scraping the Farex off the high chair and reading *The Billygoats Gruff* six times in one evening, it could be on to something. For as long as young women can see, just by looking around them, that to have children is at present a solitary and thankless task, they can hardly be blamed for making other plans.

That doing one's bit to increase the European population is, for many women, both economically undesirable and emotionally unwelcome is a minor consideration. People are increasingly choosing not to have any children because they are frightened to bring them into a threatening and unsafe world. This is reflected in the *Whick? Guide to Birth Control*, which discovered that sterilization is being chosen by increasingly younger couples. If the Commission wants more Europeans, its most urgent task should be to guarantee that there will always be a Europe for these babies.

● "This year's beauty is as pale as a primrose, as cool as summer sunlight filtering through green leaves." If this report is true, this year's beauty is in for a tough time. People will forever be asking her whether she's feeling all right and wouldn't she like to have a little lie-down? I know all this because my own complexion is a pale as cotton wool, which gives the world the impression that I should be wrapped in it.

I was such a sickly-looking child that my mother, worried that she might be accused of neglect, used to smear a little rouge on my cheeks before taking me to birthday parties. Even now, every time I pass a mirror, I absent-mindedly pinch my cheeks to put more colour in them. In spite of my ghost-white face, I rarely need a doctor. The only prescription necessary for instant and radiant health is a stick of blusher.

TALKBACK

Budget for the rich

From Oonagh McDonald, Labour MP for Thurrock and opposition spokesman for Treasury and Civil Service matters.

I looked forward with interest to Sarah Hogg's analysis of the row between the Chancellor and the poverty lobby about the effect of the Budget on poor families ("Trapped On All Sides", Friday Page, April 6). My hopes were doomed to disappointment. Her whole argument assumes that the Chancellor and the poverty lobby have the same - aim to alleviate poverty - and their only disagreement is about the methods. Anyone who believes that is living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

Make no mistake, the Budget is in line with all the others since 1979. It is part of the process of systematically redistributing the tax burden from the rich to the poor. Not only have the poor got poorer during the last four years, but their numbers have increased from 4.4 million in 1979 to over 7.5 million in 1984.

What the Chancellor claimed for his budget is quite different. The income tax bill has been cut by £2.08 a week for a married couple, and £1.27 for a single person; 850,000 people have been taken out of tax; some effort to help the poor. Half a million of those people would have been taken out of tax if the Chancellor had merely indexed tax thresholds. As it is, high wage-earners benefit far more than low-paid workers from the Chancellor's action. A person earning £25,000 a year will get £5.76 a week extra, if single, and £6.00 extra, if married. But the Chancellor made matters even worse by cutting income tax for 750,000 higher-rate tax-payers as well, at a cost of £140m in a full year. A small sum, perhaps, but it is all part of the same mistaken strategy - this Government determinedly goes on slashing welfare

benefits or social services to save amounts like that.

Since 1979, the amount of tax and national insurance contributions paid by those earning average or below average (male) earnings, currently £168 a week, has increased both as a proportion of their income and in real terms. For example, a married couple with two children or two times average income had had a 7 per cent increase in their tax bill. By contrast, the same size family earning 10 times the average have had their tax bill cut by 23 per cent - that is almost a quarter - since 1979. Budgets since then have been a bonanza for the better-off. This is no different from the rest.

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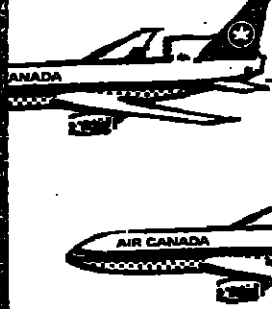
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Ruth Smeeth has stood on the track at Los Angeles and thought: "I could be running here in the Olympics".



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PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

Paris rouge

Concerning the French Communist Party, a few observations not solely about the eternal subject of whether they will leave the government. In the north of Paris the party sits in its headquarters guiding the future of its legendary French working class and, more significantly, from the point of view of people invited there for lunch, guiding the future of its even more legendary wine cellar.

The party has its own vineyards. Bottles bearing its imprimatur are prized as souvenirs by lunch guests. The headquarters is a concrete edifice protected by electronic surveillance. Officially, this is to protect the central committee from France's omnipresent fascists. A more plausible reason is to protect the even more central wine cellar from France's omnipresent boozers.

Last week *L'Humanité*, the party's daily newspaper, published a supplement on the paper's 80th anniversary reproducing past news items. Selection required tact. There were, for example, the headlines from a clandestine issue of August 1944, as the Americans and de Gaulle's Free French closed in on the city: "All Paris to the barricades... Not a Boche must leave alive from insurgent Paris."

But there was a period when *L'Humanité* did not advise its readers to kill the Boche - indeed, was positively against the practice. Banned by the French government during the period of the Nazi-Soviet pact because of its opposition to the war, it asked the victorious Germans in 1940 for permission to republish.

Last week's supplement contained a rare official reference to this fabled episode: "June 26, 1940. De Gaulle. Exodius. The Communist Party is not saved from the general disorganization. Its militants are dispersed. In Paris there are no longer French authorities. The occupants have not yet installed their apparatus of oppression. It is in this context that a request is made in the capital for *L'Humanité* to resume publication. That demand was an error. It was firmly disavowed by the leadership of the party."

Disavowed when? The supplement left that unclear; understandably since, one suspects, any disavowal dates from rather later.

Would it really alter the history of France, then, if this extremely implausible party left the government? It might alter the history of Mitterrand. *L'Humanité* has been writing and rewriting his history for nearly 40 years to coincide with Communist policy. Sometimes he is a villain, sometimes someone with whom it can do business, sometimes (as now) both. Externally unenergetic in research by itself reveals, for example, *L'Humanité's* short biography of October 14, 1948: "François Mitterrand, Secretary of State in Charge of Information. He is principally in charge of the diffusion of the broadcasting of lies. This junior minister was one of the first Vichystes of France."

The item goes on to mention Mitterrand's Vichy medal, which is another subject of perennial French heckling; it was accepted, Mitterrand says, only on the instructions of the resistance for which he was working undercover. "Mitterrand is not a perjurer," added *L'Humanité* of 1948. "Faithful to his belief, he is still in the Vichystic tradition."

This was not in the anniversary supplement. Though, if that wretched Communist departure from the present government ever does actually happen, it could be in the next.

The ancienne cuisine under pressure

Spring is an appropriate moment to mention what, according to what I have learned, from a chef, is a new problem about Americans in Paris. Deeply rooted in their homeland now is the anti-cholesterol terror, the fitness ethic, healthy eating and the general, clearly blasphemous desire to live for ever. So in Paris, they are no longer serious eaters. The situation will be made worse if they get to know about Professor Jean-Luc de Jennes, a "world authority" on heart disease, who has announced that cholesterol is the leading cause of that malady.

He lists, as being "très riches" in cholesterol, mutton, fresh cream, kidneys, crevettes (oddly), oysters, and as "more or less rich", sardines in oil, gruyère cheese, brie, saucisson and jambon - which rules out most traditional French cuisine. But there is consolation for those of us who intend to carry on eating French. Items low in cholesterol include, for some odd reason, two of the most typical of the nation's comestibles: mussels and croissants (astoundingly). Americans are expected to take to eating them together.

BARRY FANTONI



"Terrible, I asked for a hot dog and all I got was a sausage"

Basics we must not forget

Sidney Hook, continuing our series on Nato's 35th anniversary, explains the true nature of the threat to a Europe seen increasingly in the US as unwilling to defend its own freedom



The nature of the Nato alliance guarantees that there will always be differences of opinion and points of friction among its members.

bers. Were this not so we would have no alliance but a hegemonic structure in which one dominant power controls its satellites. This is the system among the nations of the Warsaw Pact. When differences and frictions emerge among the members of Nato there must be a realization of the underlying rationale of their alliance if their association is to endure and be effective. In its absence the genuine burdens and hardships that result from specific decisions tend to erode the bonds of unity.

Nato exists to defend the open, pluralistic societies of the West against the military encroachments of communism. I choose the phrase "pluralistic society" because it encompasses the substantial differences that exist in the internal structures of the Nato nations. A pluralistic society is one that recognizes the legitimacy of different centres of power, not only political but social and cultural. Above all, it respects the relative autonomy of the private sphere of human experience, and therefore denies and rejects the omnipotence of the state.

Although most pluralistic societies in Western Europe accept political democracy or some form of popular sovereignty, this has not always been true. However, the very fact of their plural structure (the existence of islands of culture, religion, economic behaviour and other non-political forms of association) has facilitated the transformation of political dictatorship into viable democracies. Spain, Portugal and Greece are cases in point. On the other hand, there is no instance of a communist society reverting peacefully or transforming itself into a democracy. Were the attempt seriously to be made, the Kremlin, under the Brezhnev doctrine, openly threatens to prevent it.

What is at stake, then, in the conflict between Western Europe, of which North America is an extension, and the Soviet world is not a clash of doctrines but ways of life. The evidence is incontestable that the communist way of life has never been chosen by any people living under a communist regime. Just as manifest is the fact that no communist regime would dare risk today permitting its subjects a free choice between the existing system and a genuine alternative.

Although sympathetic to the plight of the unfortunate human beings living in the shadow of the Gulag Archipelago, but the portly and aggressive designs against the communist world. It is purely defensive. Despite its rhetoric the Kremlin knows that, if it had any doubts, the behaviour of Nato during the communist butcheries in East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia should have allayed them.

The same cannot be said about the Soviet Union. Although the very existence of the open pluralistic societies of the West constitutes a source of potential dissatisfaction among the Soviet people, afflicted by their economies of scarcity and regimes of terror, the Soviet Union is in a state of permanent military mobilization. A comparison of the maps of the world in 1945 and 1984 reveals a striking increase in the global power of the communist world. In almost every area it is armed far beyond its defensive needs. Only Nato's nuclear deterrent has preserved the peace in Western Europe.

More alarming than the Soviet arsenal of weapons in recent years has been the erosion in the awareness of many groups in the West, especially the young, of the values that divide the monistic totalitarian culture of the communist world from the pluralistic culture of their own countries. The fear of a nuclear holocaust has demoralized large sections of the young into the belief that the differences between the communist and the open societies of the West are relatively unimportant, and that whatever differences exist, nothing is worse than the continued threat of a nuclear war, not even the universal domination of communist tyranny. That is the basic premise of unilateralism, and accounts for the growth of neutralism and anti-Americanism.

Such an attitude reflects a profound failure to understand the nature of the Kremlin's strategy and its mode of thought. What may be just as fatal is the failure to gauge the influence of such European sentiment on American political behaviour.

What the European peace movements, including the dominant faction of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, do not understand is that barring an invasion of its space, the Soviet Union will not initiate a war against Western Europe unless it is sure to win it. So long as the Western nuclear deterrent is in place the Kremlin can never be sure.

There are many reasons for this conclusion. First, the communists worship at the altar of history. No value is more imperative to them than survival. It makes no sense for them to go down in defeat on behalf of a cause. Second, they are hard-headed realists. Even Hitler, who was a madman, did not resort to the use of poison gas during the Second World War because he knew what the consequences would be.

The members of the Politburo, who alone make the decisions in the Soviet Union, are shrewd and tough. There is something comical about the view, sedulously calculated by

some "experts" on communism, that their feelings were hurt by President Reagan's reference to the Soviet Union as an evil empire. The Soviet leaders have themselves exhausted the vocabulary of the vilest expletives in characterizing the capitalist powers, especially the United States.

Third, why should the communist leaders risk world war for, at best, a Pyrrhic victory, when they believe that they are winning the world piecemeal without war? The "correlation of world forces", they boast, has turned in their favour, and a good case can be made for that view. Fourth, they still believe that the West is beset by "internal contradictions" which sooner or later will result in widespread economic distress, a loss of confidence and nerve in Western ruling circles, and the weakening of their will and capacity for external adventure.



The growth of pacifism in the West, which the Russians encourage by material and ideological campaigns about the horrors of nuclear war, they regard, as Lenin did before them, as an expression of Western decadence. Genuine pacifists in the Soviet Union are sent to concentration camps or asylums for the insane.

If the nuclear deterrent is removed, or if the citizens of the United States conclude that it is not possible to defend the freedom of peoples unwilling to defend their own freedom, there will still be no war. All that will be required is for the Soviet Union to make a threat of war to precipitate a rush to capitulation. With no fear of nuclear retaliation from the United States, Europe will not just be Finlandized; it will be Sovietized.

It is not only European peace activists and unilateralists who are unaware of the effects of their propaganda on American public opinion. Some of the chancelleries of Western Europe seem to be oblivious to the growing manifestations of neo-isolationism in America. The relative unconcern of the European Nato nations with developments in the Gulf, on whose oil their economies depend, and their indifference, if not outright hostility, to American interests in Central America, have fuelled among conservative voters latent isolationist tendencies to withdraw from an antiquated conception of "Fortress America".

Among liberal American voters there is resentment against the cost of military involvement in world affairs and the consequent restriction of social services. More and more questions are being asked not only about the advisability of stationing token forces in Lebanon but about the wisdom of keeping American troops in a Europe unwilling to defend itself, which vents its frustrations at its own helplessness by a rabid anti-Americanism. On the agenda of discussion groups, and among the articles of the popular press are questions no one would have raised seriously even 10 years ago: "Should the United States defend Europe?" "Nato and the fire next time"

Some historical events are irreversible. If American troops are ever withdrawn from Europe, they will not return.

Responsibility for the current state of affairs must not be laid at the doors of Europe alone. Some American administrations, misled by their advisers on Soviet affairs, have discounted the influence of communism on Soviet foreign policy as so much theology, and interpreted Russian behaviour as merely the pursuit of nation-state interest in the Marxist tradition. Farist Russia, however, never had a global strategy that extended to intervention in African and Central European affairs. To be sure, it would be absurd to explain Soviet thought and behaviour in terms of ideology alone. Not even wars of religion were purely ideological. However to dismiss any significant influence of Marxism-Leninism on Soviet thought and behaviour is just as absurd. Incredible as it may appear there is some reason to believe that this ideology is not always understood.

In the final analysis, the destiny of Western Europe rests on the public opinion of its own peoples. There is a risk and burden in defending the imperfect freedoms they now enjoy. Once lost, they will appear all the more precious, but they will not be recovered. The willingness to defend these freedoms may make it unnecessary to fight for them. In time this willingness to accept the risks of the defence of freedom may inspire the suffering masses in communist countries to exercise the pressures that may moderate the political terror under which they live.

Sir Winston Churchill was right when he characterized the Second World War as needless. There will be no Third World War so long as the West is prepared to avoid the errors and illusions that brought on the Second. The US will never desert its Nato allies if they remain faithful to the common cause which brought it into being. European freedom cannot survive without American support. The converse is not as certain.

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The author, emeritus professor of philosophy at New York University, is a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford. All the articles in this series will be published in book form in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

Anne Sofer

Getting a slice of the sexist action

An ideological dilemma is haunting the homes of north London: what to do when your small son asks for a *Sindy* doll. It is not as simple as it looks. The question is not just whether or not small boys should be allowed to have dolls. Of course they should, we all chorus in these non-sexist times: indeed they should be actively encouraged to play with them. Middle-class intellectual parents who try to tempt their male three-year-olds away from the doll's pram they have expressed an interest in by offering a pedal car know perfectly well they are right to feel guilty.

But *Sindy* is different. She is, in herself, quite appealingly sexist. She exemplifies everything that is trivial and commercially exploitable in the stereotype of a girl teenager. She is pert and pretty and has a huge boutique wardrobe of fashion boots, sexy lingerie, fetching tam o'shanter, high frilly "Princess Di" blouses, party dresses, jogging suits and beachwear.

You can buy her a mixer blender, a washing machine, a vanity set, a cooker unit and a spring cleaning set. To be fair, you can also buy her a motorcycle and a "camper buggy" but these are merely fashionable accessories which facilitate the whirl of parties, shopping and holidays. A real social pace-setter, *Sindy*. Is that the image of womanhood we want our sons to play with?

It is easier for socially-conscious parents to refuse to buy *Sindy* for their daughters - though their principles have to be very strong to withstand the sort of importunate clamour than can be sustained by the strong-willed little girls they are likely to have nurtured.

I know of one such case in which a compromise was reached in the form of *Tiny Tears*. Whereas *Sindy* is a pain, *Tiny Tears* is merely wet. Squeezed in the middle, she leaks from all the appropriate places and gazes pathetically at you through glistening eye-lashes.

A visit to Hamley's last week revealed only one unmistakably male baby, the somewhat Germanically labelled "Götz all-vinyl drink and wet baby": he was the source of much naughty hilarity for a group of little girls around the counter - but none wanted to buy him.

The real male dolls are downstairs in the Action Toys department. The popularity of Action Man and his imitators is phenomenal and I would guess that due to his arrival there are now more little boys than little girls regularly dressing and undressing and talking to their dolls. But Action Man is quite as blatantly sexist as *Sindy*.

His *raison d'être* is fighting, just as hers is clothes. There are kits for every arm of the service - for German stormtroopers, SAS air strike, underwater attack, parachute attack. The "action force" fleet of vehicles includes tanks and Jeeps and special patrols and laser exterminators - all of them with eye-catching Spanish translations on the box. This is presumably for the South American arms market - what couldn't Galbri have done with a consignment of exterminator lasers?

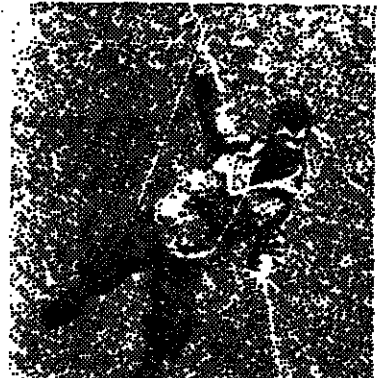
In the old days I remember tough but non-combative kits such as polar explorer and deep-sea diver which were a help for squeamish or pacifist parents, but these seem largely to have disappeared. Practically every kit comes complete with tiny plastic grenades, bayonets and pistols. You can also get a speaking

Action Man mouthing a string of terse commands and an Action Man with a "new tilting head for sharpshooter pose".

The only escape from terrestrial carnage is the fantasy cop-out of space - a Star Wars reincarnation called Captain Zargon, with "sting-ray eyes" and all sorts of tempting zargonite gear.

Surrounded by all these mini-manifestations of the aggressive male and the domesticated female, shelf upon shelf of them, with the little hands eagerly reaching and the babble of childish voices loud with delight and approval, any feminist campaigner could be forgiven for crumbling in despair. How on earth to compete with that lot?

I can see a possible story line for a Posh Simmonds cartoon. Wendy Weber, with a friend, sets up a anti-sexist toyshop in Tufnell Park, and



Macho, but unaggressive: Action Man's 1970 mountaineer

stocks it with Action Girl (kits for firefighter, weight-trainer and computer engineer) and Caring Christopher (outfits for nurse, home-help and housewife). Securing a grant from the GLC, women's committee she returns home a triumph from County Hall, looking in on her way at Hamley's to assess the competition. And she is instantly trampled underfoot by defiantly sexist toddlers stampeding to buy the latest symbol of macho masculinity or simpering femininity.

No, I'm not saying she should give up. And, of course, she never does, really, being one of the twentieth century's true irrepressibles. But she should realize what she is up against. Like any battle for hearts and minds it is necessary to get in there early, preferably from the moment the midwife (mid-spouse?) says "It's a girl" or "It's a boy."

By the time the system gets its hands on them it is much too late. Although my own children are past the *Sindy* and Action Man stage, I am blessed with a large number of small nephews who keep me up to date with non-sexist practice in the ILEA nurseries and infant schools. This was the latest report: "Last Friday, Mr Brown said he was making a new rule for that day." (Note: a male teacher in an infant school - important non-sexist innovation). "All the girls had to play with the Lego and all the boys had to play in the Home Corner." (Note: "Home Corner" equals non-sexist term for "Wendy House"). "But me and Paul I pretended we were girls and so Mr Brown let us play with Lego; but he called us Josephine and Pauline for the rest of the day." He chortled with delight at the success of this all-male conspiracy. So what, sisters, are we to make of that?

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

David Hughes

From atrocity to awareness

Driving down through France last year, we were relishing the usual headlong quest for sun and uplift when my wife, thumbing through our *Michelin*, asked: "What do you know about Oradour?" And I said that I had lived with the terrible place for 40 years.

But I had never seen the vision *épouvante* as the French call it, so in some trepidation we turned off the main road south. I recalled the essentials everyone knows. Of a summer Saturday in 1944 when an SS unit descended without provocation on the little town in Limousine just as people were finishing lunch. Up to now the war had not touched them. Now, in an hour, it wiped them out.

The men, snatched from their families, were shot at street corners and burnt in their barns. The women were crammed into the church with their children and gassed. Their homes were set on fire. By evening the town lay in exactly the ruins we see now, for the French revenge was to preserve that atrocity just as the Germans left it. It stands, wreathed in roses, in a wan hum of insects, shortly to celebrate, if that is the word, the fortieth anniversary of the day when history both began and ended in this backwater of the good life. Oradour is not a memorial so much as a memory.

My first thought was that this ghoulous detour had wrecked the spirit of our holiday. If the mood of the ruins seemed evil, the desire to perpetuate it was medieval. After tussling that presence, how could we savour a good French lunch and lap up their sunshine? Frankly, the quiescent act of vengeance, with conitort prams and cycle spokes, kitchens open to the sky, put me off the French almost as much as the Germans. Surely the time had come, if Europe wanted a future rather than a past, to let the ruins themselves fall into ruin. I longed to hear the bulldozer outrage the silence.

Yet after a few minutes, perhaps an hour - measurable time has ceased to exist in Oradour - I felt, to be honest, elated. The place had thrown me out of time altogether. It

had forced me to enter my imagination. I gazed into the church, from where the women's screams were heard two kilometres away, and all at once stopped feeling mawkish. As my eye ran down lists of perished names - more than 600 of them - farmers, teachers, girls, infants, a lawyer - I ceased to mourn.

Somehow it was much easier on the emotions to grieve for the event than to admit that I was glad that it had happened. Glad is a cheap word for what I mean. It suggests that I felt more alive at the expense of others, dead. What now struck me in mitigation ought to have been obvious, but was hard to take - it smacked of sacrilege. It was that, because the muscles of my imagination had been exercised, by a violence of long ago, I had glimpsed the truth of the dubious adage that something extremely good can come out of something horribly bad.

We drove off inspired by Oradour's permanence. The eloquent wreckage made me live the actuality of war as if it were a memory of my own, rather than just accept it, shrug it off, as if war happens only to others.

I have watched a lot of television since. There has been plenty of comparable violence, from El Salvador to St James's Square. The last week Channel 4 repeated *The World at War* which ended with Oradour, summing up the incredible of human conflict in a vivid coda of ruins and regret. The Butcher of Lyons keeps cropping up in bulletins: the French will rightly, perhaps wrongly, be revenged upon him.

But, whatever the outcome of these tribulations, and thanks to the detour, it now all feels real to me, not just a report, not a sensational invention of the box, but real. My own life at risk.

Perhaps, by chance, on that holiday, after 40 years I grew up.

The Pork Butcher, a novel of Oradour by David Hughes, is published today by Constable (£5.95).

Michael Hornsby on Pretoria's latest exploitation of dissidence abroad



Chief Jonathan: Pretoria helped him to power but now wants him out. Left, a typical scene in a country where women till a hostile soil and the men leave to work in the South African gold mines

Why Lesotho is Botha's new dirty tricks target

Johannesburg

As the enforced tranquillity of Pax Pretoriana settles on the Southern African sub-continent, the sharpest thorn in South Africa's side is not a Marxist revolutionary firebrand in Maputo or Lusaka, but the portly and conservative figure of Chief Leabua Jonathan, the prime minister of Lesotho, the former British protectorate of Basutoland.

It is one of the more notable ironies in which the history of Africa abounds that tiny Lesotho should be causing South Africa more trouble than any other of the black states in the region, states which once called during the communist butcheries in East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia should have allayed them.

Economically and geographically, Lesotho is almost uniquely vulnerable to South African pressure. Its 1.3 million Basuto inhabitants occupy some 11,600 square miles of mountainous terrain, completely surrounded by the Orange Free State, Cape Province, Natal and the nominally independent, Khosha-speaking tribal homeland of Transkei.

All Lesotho's imports have to be transported through South Africa, which also supplies the small kingdom with fuel. More than 100,000 Basutos work in South Africa's mines, and the earnings they send home account for a large chunk of the country's gross national product.

Government revenue depends heavily on a generously calculated share of the common customs duties collected by South Africa on behalf of Saco, the Southern African Customs Union, in which Lesotho and two other former British protectorates, Botswana and Swaziland, are co-partners with Pretoria.

Economically, Lesotho has little more de facto independence than some of South Africa's own tribal "Bantustans". As a recognized sovereign state, however, it can

indulge in gestures of public defiance in the knowledge that naked retaliation by South Africa would provoke an international outcry which Pretoria in its current guise as a dove of peace would like to avoid.

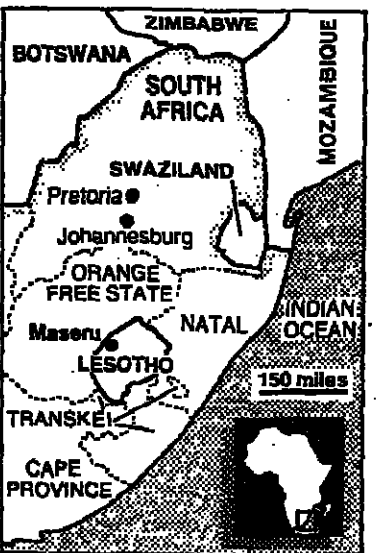
What seems to be worrying Pretoria is that Lesotho is now the only geographically strategic foreign sanctuary left for guerrillas of the underground African National Congress (ANC) which is not being policed to its satisfaction. Security pacts signed with Mozambique and Swaziland have closed off the ANC's main infiltration routes and informal security arrangements with Zimbabwe and Botswana have kept ANC activity from those countries to negligible levels.

In December 1982, South African commandos raided alleged ANC houses in Maseru, Lesotho's village-sized capital, killing 42 people, 12 of them local citizens wholly unconnected to the ANC. Since then, more than 130 ANC members have left Lesotho, either voluntarily or at the direct request of the South Africans.

This, however, has not satisfied Pretoria, which would like a specific security agreement. There are about 11,000 South African blacks in exile in Lesotho, most of them registered with the local representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and they are regarded as a potential source of ANC recruitment. Lesotho also provides a point of transit to the rest of black Africa.

Always paranoid about the real or imagined influence of the long arm of Moscow and communist subversion, Pretoria has found an additional cause for alarm in the embassies opened in Maseru last year by the North Koreans, Russians and Chinese, which, they fear, could become centres for guerrilla recruitment and the promotion of guerrilla activity generally.

Inviting the communists in, was, on the face of it, an odd thing for Chief Jonathan to do since his Basotho National Party was founded with the support of the Roman Catholic church 25 years ago to





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ORDER OF THE BOOT

The enormity of the crime committed from within the Libyan "people's bureau" in St James's Square has not diminished as the days have passed. There is, as with all serious crime, a high interest in bringing the criminal or criminals to justice. And there will be understandable revulsion at the spectacle of the occupants of 5 St James's Square, one at least of whom has murdered a police woman and wounded a dozen demonstrators outside the premises, making off with no questions asked. But there is little that could be done in that respect without either serious breach of its international obligations by the British Government or the cooperation of the Libyan authorities.

Civilized canons of diplomatic behaviour enjoined that cooperation. Colonel Gaddafi's Libya cares little about civilized canons of diplomatic behaviour, though it is quick and rigid in taking the advantages the rules confer on its own representatives. The pause allowed by the British government in the immediate aftermath of the shooting was a pause in which to seek Libyan cooperation for investigation of the crime. The request, modest enough, was that the occupants come out to be identified and that the police be permitted to search the premises for weapons and explosives in company with a Libyan official. It has to be concluded that evidence identifying the murderer would not have been found on the premises after so many days. The occupants with diplo-

matic status would not have been amenable to police inquiries unless willing to assist. The occupants without diplomatic status (and there are thought to be some) could be more vigorously pressed and briefly held on suspicion for that purpose, and no immunity removes them from the jurisdiction of the criminal law. But the likelihood of their confessing or informing to the crime was next to nil. They have now been given safe conduct.

So even if the Libyan authorities had done as they were asked - and there was no sign that they would - the prospect of the police being able to uncover evidence sufficient for criminal charge was remote. It was too remote to constitute a reason for dragging out the siege in central London much longer or a reason for undertaking moves which might imperil the safety of British citizens in Libya. The dispersal of the suspected criminals beyond the jurisdiction without investigation frustrates the satisfaction of justice only to the extent of cancelling an investigation that could not in the circumstances be expected to succeed.

However, the collective guilt of the Libyan mission, which has tried to brazen out the use of its premises as a platform and sanctuary for street fighting to the point of murder, requires no further evidence and no judicial process preceding the appropriate response. That response has now been given. It is the expulsion of the entire mission, and closure of its premises.

Closed they must remain until adequate apology is received from Tripoli, until the Libyan government forswears its agents' murderous pursuit of "enemies of the people" resident abroad, until it is prepared to put its diplomatic missions on a regular footing, and until the Foreign Office is satisfied - properly satisfied next time - as to the qualifications and bona fides of any new mission's personnel.

This was the predictable outcome. So gross an infringement of diplomatic privilege, issuing in a capital crime and passing without amends, could not but lead to a rupture in relations. The Government will now be expected to show that it has used the intervening six days to good effect, both to minimize the risk to British lives and interests in Libya, and to gather supporting action from among our friends and allies.

The shots in St James's Square were more than an outrage in the face of Britain. They were an outrage in the whole context of civilized intercourse between states. It is not just Britain that has an interest in bringing home to Colonel Gaddafi the criminality of what his agents have done, but the international community itself. The United States broke off diplomatic relations with Libya some time ago. Foremost among those to whom we are entitled to look for complementary action are our partners in the European Community. This is an occasion for the machinery of European political cooperation to turn out something of substance.

WHITEHALL'S URBAN BLIGHT

The Whitehall review of the Government's urban programme is necessary. There is a meeting of minds between the Treasury and the Department of the Environment about the need for it. The two Ministries are doing it together. It is being done quickly with assistance from Mrs Thatcher's Efficiency Unit. A great many initiatives have been taken since the summer riots of 1981 forced a reconsideration of policy. Some have fruited, others have withered. An audit of effectiveness is timely.

Yet the exercise is bedevilled by an intra-mural paradox inside the Department of the Environment, which, among other things, is Whitehall's ministry of local government finance. One side of it, the inner cities directorate, is working enthusiastically with local authorities, commerce, industry and the voluntary sector, dispensing £348 million a year to ameliorate urban blight; while its local government finance side is equally and energetically devoted to topping billions off the budget of overspenders which, in nearly every case, happen to be conformationous with inner urban authorities. To say this bedevils partnership is an understatement even by Whitehall standards. The tension is not creative. It is

tearing sensible policy-making apart.

The twin poles are joined in the person of Mr Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment. Mr Jenkin lacks the flair to motivate cynical or defeatist local bureaucracies, overworked housing estate managers and desperate tenants in the manner of his predecessor, Mr Heseltine, who is now attacking military blight at the Ministry of Defence. But Mr Jenkin pegs away conscientiously and is in Merseyside one week in three. He deserves sympathy. His cabinet colleagues, Mr Heseltine and Mr Walker apart, are more interested in rate-capping than in inner city regeneration. So is the Treasury, though the sums at stake are in different leagues. Above all, the Prime Minister comes alive on the subject of local authority funding.

The problems of the urban areas do not arouse her formidable strengths and appetite for attacking problems, as her cold reaction to Mr Heseltine's famous minute of August 1981, "It took a Riot" showed.

There has not been an inter-departmental ministerial meeting on inner city problems since autumn 1981. The local authority finance committees MISC 79 and MISC 95 have in contrast, been very active. The

Cabinet's urban neglect is regrettable. It may also be short sighted. Britain is entering what is known as the "riot season" which guardians of law and order reckon starts on Easter Monday and lasts until the end of September. The Special Branch do not expect street trouble this spring and summer, nor did they in 1981. Whatever intelligence reports suggest, the problems of urban decay are too deep-seated and long-term to be neglected at the highest level except when the petrol bombs fly.

Mr Jenkin is in a difficult position on urban policy. The Treasury has a number of valid points against his budget. There are some successes too which the Treasury must recognize, most notably the progress made in partnership areas in improving vast council estates. But Mr Jenkin, if he moves quickly, can avoid scoring at least one own goal. He can undertake to publish the report of the urban policy programme review. The Commons Environment Committee needs it if it is to help articulate a sensible public debate which fully appreciates the conflict between local authority finance and urban policy. The public needs it too. Problems cannot be solved until they are acknowledged and explained.

PSYCHIATRY, SOVIET STYLE

The death of Alexei Vasilievich Nikitin underlines the need for more strenuous efforts to end the abuse of psychiatry in the USSR for suppressing dissent. In December 1980 Mr Nikitin, a Donetsk mining engineer, was forcibly imprisoned in a psychiatric hospital after introducing two American correspondents to Soviet coalminers so that the outside world could receive first-hand evidence about the deplorable living and working conditions of miners in the USSR.

He had offended the authorities before by siding with workers in their disputes with management over the unfair distribution of bonuses and housing; in 1969, at the age of 32, he organized an appeal by more than 100 miners to the Party Central Committee. He was expelled from the Party and later dismissed from his work in the mine, but continued to campaign on behalf of miners. In 1971 an explosion in the pit in which seven died and many were injured showed that his warnings about dangerous conditions were fully justified. The following year Mr Nikitin was placed, without any psychiatric examination, in the Dnepropetrovsk Special Hospital, where among the many sane inmates he met nationalists, religious believers and other worker dissidents. Released in 1976, he was subjected to repeated KGB harassment and again confined to psychiatric hospitals, where he was punished by injection with dangerous drugs.

Dr Anatoly Koryagin, the consultant psychiatrist of the unofficial Working Commission for investigating the use of psychiatry for political purposes, examined Alexei Nikitin and

found no evidence that he had ever suffered from psychiatric illness or character disorders; however, this did not save Nikitin from further internment and damaging drug treatment. Mr Mikhail Sredny, President of the Soviet Coalminers' Union, who recently expressed his sympathy for the British miners, wrote to the National Union of Mineworkers in 1981 saying that Alexei Nikitin was "a mentally unsound man who has for long been breaking the law". Dr Koryagin, who had shown this statement to be false, was himself arrested and sentenced to seven years in a strict regime camp plus five years of internal exile.

The evidence for this KGB abuse of psychiatry is overwhelming. It is quite clearly sanctioned at the highest level; the career of President Andropov demonstrated the intertwined relationship between the agencies of repression and the leadership. Since the town of Rybinsk was renamed in his honour, the psychiatric prison hospital there now presumably bears his name also.

Psychiatrists and scholars in the West have painstakingly compiled hundreds of comprehensive case histories. The International Association on the Political Use of Psychiatry was able to produce such an incriminating file that last year the Soviet Society of Psychiatrists withdrew from the World Psychiatric Association, rather than face expulsion at the July Congress in Vienna. Eyewitness reports are available, not only from several former victims now in the West, but also from some of the more honourable Soviet psychiatrists who rebelled against the distortion of their

profession and were forced to emigrate. Those wrongfully interned in psychiatric hospitals come from a wide range of backgrounds. A well-known case similar to that of Nikitin is Vladimir Klebanov, the coalminer who attempted to form an independent trade union. Gerhard Buterus is an ethnic German who worked as a revenue inspector until his attempted escape from the USSR on a Greek ship.

Egor Volkov, arrested in 1967 for organizing a strike, has been interned in the Blagoveshchensk Psychiatric Hospital since 1968; the head of the hospital is Colonel Lyudmila Butenkova. The chairman of the Soviet psychiatrists' organization, Dr Georgy Morozov, of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, attacks such information as "slander" but refuses to permit world authorities to investigate the numerous specific cases where the names and addresses of both victim and persecutors are known.

Publicity in the West has helped many sane inmates of Soviet psychiatric hospitals, but the death of Alexei Nikitin and the continued torture of Dr Anatoly Koryagin in Chistopol prison show that publicity alone is not enough. Letters and telephone appeals to Soviet leaders and hospital authorities can be very effective; there should certainly be more determined efforts by Western governments through the United Nations and other international agencies.

"The secretary of the British Working Group is Christine Shaw, 17 Norland Square, London W11, from whom an Information Bulletin is available."

Safeguarding the rural elderly

From Mr D. R. B. Thompson and others

Sir, On February 28 this year, during the committee stage in the House of Lords of the Housing and Building Control Bill, an amendment was passed which exempted non-sheltered dwellings for the elderly from the right to buy. The view prevailed that the shortage of such accommodation provided by local authorities and housing associations, particularly in the rural areas, was a more important consideration than the Government's wish to extend home ownership.

In the House of Commons on April 12, during consideration of the Lords amendments, the Government successfully sought to remove the exemption agreed by the Lords and to provide the long-promised "rural safeguards". The Government's amendments were tabled too late to allow time for consideration and comment by those organisations with long experience and evidence of the problems of rural housing.

The so-called safeguards now contained in the Bill depend on the Secretary of State's designation of rural areas on application by the local authority. No statutory criteria for designation are contained in the Bill and the best guidance we have is to be found in the record of such designations since the 1980 Housing Act.

Of 130 applications only 22 have been accepted. Faced with the curious view which the Secretary of State has taken in refusing to designate what are, in anyone else's language, rural areas, many local authorities have not wasted their time with further applications. Until the Government will clearly define the criteria for the designation of "rural areas", the new amendment's true meaning, and therefore its value in tackling the problem perceived by their Lordships, cannot be examined. As it stands it is, at best, a gesture and on past evidence is, at worst, a mechanism for allowing ministerial action to alter the apparent intentions of an Act of Parliament.

If the Government is sincere in seeking to provide safeguards to preserve the small stock of rented housing for the rural elderly, then the intentions it has expressed must be translated into a demonstrated readiness to designate rural areas.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN THOMPSON,
(Chairman, National Agricultural Centre Housing Association),
MOIRA E. CONSTABLE,
(Chief Executive, National Agricultural Centre Rural Trust),
DAVID CLARK,
(Secretary, Rural Voice),
National Agricultural Centre Rural Trust,
35 Belgrave Square, SW1,
April 13.

Thinking for Church

From Dr Graham Dawson

Sir, As a contributor to *The Kindness That Kills*, I would like to ally Mr Ronald Butt's fears (feature, April 12), that "between the lines of some of these essays, it is almost as though the chief value of Christianity is seen as its capacity to give moral authority to the Absolute of the market."

The concluding lines of my essay are sufficiently plain to dispel any anxiety about what might lie between them: "... it is reasonable to believe, on the basis of historical evidence, that capitalism is the best wealth-creating yet devised."

I am sure that my fellow contributors would agree that commitment to the market or capitalist system, as to any merely human device or institution, must be sensitive to the evidence and therefore no more than conditional.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM DAWSON,
7 Venables Drive,
Poulton Lancelyn,
Wirral,
Merseyside,
April 12.

Teachers' pay claim

From Mr Eric Farge

Sir, Yesterday (April 16) Sir Keith Joseph told teachers at the annual conference of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association that their pay is low because the law of supply and demand is operating (report, April 17).

It is worth pointing out to him that in the case of politicians supply enormously exceeds demand and that the demand for Conservative politicians seems to have fallen to an all-time low.

There is of course no reflection of this in the salaries of MPs or Cabinet ministers.

Yours faithfully,
E. FARGE,
50 Grove Avenue,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
April 17.

Keeping jail balance

From Mr H. J. Appleton

Sir, There will be little disagreement with Mr Morgan ("Just visiting - to what purpose?", April 7) on his comments on the highly unsatisfactory conditions in which many remand prisoners are held. Many convicted prisoners are also affected, although it should be pointed out that mercifully not all prisoners suffer the overcrowding found in so-called local prisons and remand centres.

I would not have thought that there was any lack of public concern about this, but it is certainly up to boards to continue to exert pressure by whatever means they consider most effective to try to ensure a substantial and lasting improvement.

However it is when Mr Morgan seeks to extend his argument to policies that the spread of members' responsibilities - in particular the inclusion of a disciplinary role - makes the job virtually impossible

Making best use of North Sea oil

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, Rarely can a Chancellor of the Exchequer have said something so nonsensical as the remark attributed to Mr Lawson in your issue of April 10, that "North Sea oil production had displaced other industrial activity, partly by pushing up the exchange rate, and had hastened, but not caused, the structural decline of manufacturing" (italics added).

The implication is that this "displacement" was something inevitable, due to the fact that resources of capital and labour previously engaged in manufacturing were now required for oil. But it was nothing of the kind. It was the result of the failure of the Government to recognize that oil production was a new and additional source of income, which has the peculiarity that, unlike other kinds of production, only a negligible fraction (2 per cent) generates spendable incomes, the rest being a potential addition to national savings which must be balanced by additional investment if a contraction of output elsewhere in the economy is to be prevented.

Had we increased our investment in manufacturing or in social infrastructure *pari passu* with the increase in the value of oil production, the Germans and other trading partners could have paid for oil by supplying additional machinery without any adverse effect on British manufacturing industry - indeed, thus counteracting the long

process of "structural decline" of Britain as a manufacturing nation.

Mr Lawson's policies make sense only on the supposition that Mrs Thatcher and her friends regarded the rise in unemployment by two millions as a more important objective (in pursuit of their anti-inflationary policy) than the regeneration of British industry.

Britain's industrial prospects were further worsened by the provisions of Mr Lawson's Budget, which has withdrawn (in stages) the existing capital allowances and balanced the resulting gain in revenue by a reduction in the prospective rates of corporation tax from 52 to 32 per cent.

This is tantamount to a big shift in the distribution of the burden of company taxation against the dynamic and expanding firms (who undertake most of the new industrial investment) in favour of old and decrepit firms who invest nothing and therefore get the full benefit of the lower rate of taxation.

This is exactly the opposite of the tax reforms demanded by M Yvon Cattaui, President of the CNPF (the French equivalent of the CBI) who, as reported on the front page of *Le Monde* in the issue of April 11, asked that profits reinvested in the business in new capital expenditure be exempt from taxation.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
La Garde Freinet,
Var, France.

Language of prayer

From the Reverend Colin Sedgwick

Sir, I am neither an Anglican nor a literary aesthete, so what the Church of England chooses to do with its service books is not of primary importance to me. But even I find it impossible to let Roger Scruton's piece (April 10) pass without comment.

I suspect that several of the things he says are literally meaningless. The Book of Common Prayer "joins together eternal destiny with an enduring, but temporal, political allegiance". This sounds very grand. But what does it actually mean?

What is this "political allegiance" in which use of the BCP involves us? An even more peculiar generalization follows concerning "modern Europeans". Such people can only "worship God easily (?) through forms and liturgies which enable them ... to 'confess to history'". I

suspect that this is the kind of nonsense of which only an intellectual can be capable.

But worst of all are Dr Scruton's comments on liturgical language (by which, of course, he means BCP liturgical language). "It is only in such a language that a dying person can be consoled", he tells us.

I don't like to be rude, but what utter drivel! It prompts me to wonder what practical experience Dr Scruton has of consoling the dying. As a Christian minister, this is part of my normal work, and I simply do not use either the BCP or any other service book. If Dr Scruton is right, therefore, my ministrations must be in vain. Strangely, though, this is not what people on the receiving end of them are often moved to say.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN SEDGWICK,
Scunthorpe Baptist Church,
Ashby Road,
Scunthorpe.

Staying in touch

From the Director of the America-European Community Association

Sir, Western Europe and the United States are failing to maintain the high quality of Atlantic communications which characterised the postwar years. The facts, as you rightly point out in your April 10 article, do not fit the dangerous argument which suggests an "equity of menace" to the Soviet Union and the United States. But facts do not speak for themselves; they need to be effectively communicated.

Traditionally, communications have been between the peoples of northern Europe and eastern America. However, over the next decades, as these peoples move physically and psychologically to the south and the west, there could be an increasing lack of understanding across the Atlantic of how fundamental to peace and prosperity are our shared democratic values.

Urgent and imaginative action is needed. For example, a few plane-loads exchanging young people might communicate the importance of these issues better than extra words. Your readers today have mostly lived peaceful lives in

pleasant democracies. What small efforts we now need to make, compared to those of our parents and grandparents, to maintain a democratic way of life for our children. I wonder whether we will bother to make them?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DREW, Director,
America-European Community Association,
St Martin's House, 10th floor,
140 Tottenham Court Road, NW1.

Mental health care

From Dr Peter Rohde

Sir, It is wrong to state (*The Times*, March 27) that the 1983 Mental Health Act does not allow people to be committed to a mental hospital unless they are a danger to themselves or others.

The actual words are "in the interests of his own health or safety or with a view to the protection of other persons" (section 2 and 3).

Your correspondent, by omitting "health", perpetuates a widespread misquotation of the Act.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROHDE,
St Mary Abbot's Hospital,
Marloes Road, W8.

Milk quota muddle

From Lord Brookeborough

Sir, The recent common agricultural policy price settlement accepted for the United Kingdom by the Minister of Agriculture has been widely acclaimed. To say the least this is misguided but not surprising. Even the Prime Minister appeared to misunderstand it, as demonstrated by her apology to Mr Hume over confusion about the Northern Ireland milk quota.

Firstly, Britain's trump negotiating card has been thrown away by accepting the settlement before a permanent solution has been found for either the United Kingdom's EEC contribution or for the control of Community spending.

Secondly, far from limiting CAP expenditure the present settlement will result in higher spending this year than last, and certainly more than the budget.

Thirdly, nothing significant was done over the key commodity of cereals. Cereals growers needed a clear signal that rising surpluses will not be acceptable. Cheaper cereals are necessary to correct the imbalance between hoof and corn and to stimulate consumption.

Fourthly, although on the surface

an attempt has been made to control runaway milk output, the level set is so high that the butter and skim mountain will continue to grow.

And lastly, derogation on the quotas was granted to a number of countries, most notably the Irish Republic. This should never have been allowed. Any country in vital need of derogation should have been paid a direct grant from the social fund to be spent on alleviating the result of the quotas in a way which will not enlarge surpluses.

In Northern Ireland's special circumstances, the impression has been allowed to grow that our dairy farmers will be largely exempt from quotas. In fact there will be a cut of 9 per cent on 1983 levels, resulting in a drop of about 75 per cent of net income.

In conclusion the settlement did no good for the consumers, taxpayers, the national interest, or the long-term interest of a sound agricultural industry. What a lost opportunity.

Yours etc,
BROOKEBOROUGH,
Ashbrook House,
Brookeborough,
co Fermanagh,
Northern Ireland,
April 17.

that I, for one, part company with him. Prisons are a classic case of "them and us"; either you are behind the bars or you are not. The day-to-day running of the whole service depends on the maintenance of a balance between inmates and staff, a continuous push-pull, a kind of dynamic equilibrium; disturb it to any significant extent and the whole system will grind to a halt.

Boards of visitors, almost alone amongst those who work in prisons, are in a position to help maintain this balance, but only so long as there are two sides to the job - the watchdog function which puts us on the side of the inmate and the disciplinary function, which does the opposite. Take away either one and we are left standing on one leg.

In my view, to fail to grasp this is to fail to understand the essence of the job.

I would be the first to agree that the duties of members of boards are

not always easy to perform and if, as Mr Morgan says, he found the combination of these duties "an intolerably ill-balanced and unjust dilemma" then he was right to resign. Further, I think that any members of boards who share his views to the point where their ability to carry out the full range of their responsibilities is impaired should follow his example.

I believe it will then be clear that the great majority of members do not find the same degree of difficulty which so bedevilled him and that they will continue to make their contribution to the everyday existence of the establishments which they serve.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. APPLETON, Board of Visitors,
H.M. Prison,
Gartree,
Leicester Road,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire,
April 9.

Seal hunt boycott hits fishermen

From the Bishop of Quebec

Sir, Recently I witnessed the CBC *Journal* telecast on the boycott of Canadian fish products in Britain. According to the *Journal*, which is normally accurate in its reporting, the boycott was the consequence of the British people's unhappiness about the seal hunt. I must confess to finding the present manner of seal hunting very distressing and have already urged that, if scientific evidence has proved the necessity of culling the herd, the most humane method of doing so be found and employed.

What concerns me in this particular instance and has prompted me to write this letter is a fear that the British people are acting on incomplete information. A boycott of Canadian fish products has, for example, a very serious effect on the fishermen on our western coast, British Columbia.

These people are suffering from the boycott, yet they are uninvolved in the seal hunt. In my own Diocese of Quebec there are fishermen who are being severely penalized by this action who have not taken part in the seal hunt and there are also the native peoples whose livelihood depends on fishing.

As a native Briton I have a strong regard for "fair play" and am proud of the distinguished tradition that has always made that concept an integral part of the decisions of most Britons. May I urge you to seek all the facts on this issue before assuming a stance that does injury to innocent parties.

There are already rumours in this country of a "counter-boycott" which would wreak more hardship, perhaps unnecessarily. Worst of all, such a state of affairs may in fact direct attention away from the original question: how can we arrange to ensure sensible and humane management of the herds of the beautiful white seals.

Yours sincerely,
ALLEN GOODINGS,
Diocese of Quebec,
Anglican Church of Canada,
Church House,
35 rue des Jardins,
Quebec,
Canada,
April 6.

Landscaping and BR

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, It is ironic that Derek Lovejoy (April 10) should castigate British Rail for a decline in its inside environment over the last decade when *force majeure*, in the shape of tailoring resources to business objectives, has allowed linesides to revert more than ever towards their natural state: a joy to ecologists, but not to landscape architects, it seems.

Since the demise of steam in 1968 there has been no need for controlled burning necessary to minimise fire risk. Safety continues to be the guiding principle - in forewarning staff working on the track, ensuring drivers' sight lines to signals, and preventing trees fouling the track. For these reasons our engineers need to keep clear areas to meet us back from the ballast shoulder by cutting, spraying or the use of rail-mounted flails. It is hard to combine any of these treatments with good visual effect.

Outside this strip, however, nature is allowed free rein - unless a tree is judged potentially dangerous. The Nature Conservancy Council surveys and advises us on lineside habitats for their special flora, fauna or geology.

To say that we are not dealing with the problems of the lineside environment as a whole would be untrue. In partnership with Hampshire County Council we have commissioned a study of the lineside in the Winchester area to develop a management plan that will also provide guidelines for improvements elsewhere.

I join Derek Lovejoy in deploring the use of railway land, especially in urban areas, as a dumping ground. BR staff are increasing their efforts to clear scrap and debris left after engineering work; and in many cities BR has joined forces with local authorities and the Manpower Services Commission in clearing lineside rubbish.

We are keen to launch more schemes of this kind; many do not realise that their own backyard is our window display.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
Director Environment,
British Railways Board,
222 Marylebone Road, NW1,
April 12.

Unfair daffodils

From Dr M. D. Croft

Sir, The daffodils in our front garden are all pointing towards the street and away from our house. I bought them so that I could look at them out of the window, but they seem to reserve their beauty not for me but for passers-by, who did not fork out last autumn for the bulbs, as I did.

My wife tells me they are looking towards the sun, but that does not explain the behaviour of the daffodils in the back garden, which are also facing the other way. Is there something fundamentally wrong about the way we planted them, or are we doing something of which they disapprove?

Short of wringing their necks, or cutting off the flowers and placing them in a vase on the dining-room table, or changing our highly provocative lifestyle, can anything be done? We need an answer fast, as their attitude is already beginning to infect the primroses.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CROFT,
9 Guildford Grove,
Greenwich, SE10,
April 17.



Señor Otto Arosemena Gomez, who died in Salinas, Ecuador, on April 20 at the age of 59, was President of Ecuador from 1966 to 1968. Arosemena, a lawyer by profession was named provisional president by a constituent assembly in 1966 in the aftermath of a period of government by military junta and was succeeded two years later by General Jose Maria

Carlisle

5.10 SILVER JUBILEE HANDICAP CHASE
(£1,517; 3m) (S)
120 Paddy's Patch 10-10 5-11-10 Mr P Brown
4 191 Sea Splash 8-10-11-10 Mr G Brown
6 610 Dr Pepper 7-10-12 10-10 10-10 10-10
8 204 Baylens Sea Horse 10-10-10 10-10 10-10
11-10 Sea Splash, 4-4 Paddy's Patch, 4 Dr Pepper,
Baylens Sea Horse.

HANDICAP SELECTIONS: (By Handicap) 2.10
Marash, 2.45 Royal Missile, 2.55 Stay Shot, 4.
Corbett, 4.25 Wajo, 5.10 Paddy's Patch.

Huntingdon

2.0 EASTER SELLING HANDICAP (5641; 2m)

[illegible]

3.0 KEN FURBANK HANDCAP HURDL
 (1,570; 2m 200yd) (5)
 1-062 Yawfah 5-11-7 Sows Knight
 2-067 Yawfah 5-11-7 Peter Thorne
 3-060 Tardus 8-5-10-4
 11-088 Star Whisker 1-10-4 G Remond
 12-086 Blues Beauty 8-10-4 1 C
 Every Week Tuesday, 6-4 Show News, 6 Times

3.30 FITZWILLIAM HANDCAP CHAS
 (1,532; 2m 41) (4)
 2-068 Opus 9-11-7 P Carv
 8-060 10-10-3
 9-323 Redstart 4-10-10-2 G Remond
 11-068 Tardus 9-10-4
 12-068 Tardus 9-10-4
 Every Sat 10-10-4
 Opus: 2 Tardus, 2 Tardus, 4 Tardus, 13

4.0 WATERLOO NOVICE HUNTER CHAS
 (1,538; 3m 100yd) (4)

4.30 BRAMPTON NOVICES' HURDLE (4+4)
57.32 Net 200y(0d) (11)
2 014 Brian Meech 11-7 K Butler
5 091 Helen Vire 11-7 S Sargent
7 076 Peter Jones 11-7 J Barker
8 009 Ouseworthy Vale 11-0 A Carr
9 008 The River 11-0 Steve Ridge
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Stamencorn Lass. 4:30 Seton Lass.

Hereford

2.15 ROSS-ON-MYE NOVICES' HURDLE (OP)
1:5879: 2m(?) (7 runners)

5 0-60 Bredon Sledge 5-11-4 P Stone
6 009 Concession Girls 5-1-4
7 000 Lanchester Lasses 5-1-4 NON-RUNNER
8 028 Dyma Dromed 6-10-13
9 011 Galfest La Bowser 6-16-13
10 029 Grand Thea Lasses 4-10-12 C Jones
11 037 Stanchard's Trotter 4-10-7 A Cox
14 5 Dyma Dromed, 7-2 Galfest La Bowser, 5 Brothers
Stamencorn, 6 Lanchester Lasses

2.45 HOLIDAY SELLING HANDICAP (\$460)
3m: 17(?)

1 000 Desert Air (M) 5-11-10 W Whartonston
3 000 Mordwell 5-11-4 Mr R Dromed

6	200	Canby (1) 6-11-3	P Stone
7	800	The Black Hawk (1) 6-11-3	
8	200	The Storm (1) 6-11-3	4-11-3
9	200	May Sigs (1) 6-11-2	NON-RUNNER
9-Capt.	11-4	Kate The Stew, 7-2 May, 5 May	
Sgt.			
153 LEONMURDER			
CHASE (1,277.2m) (11)			
6	800	Redcapper Castle 7-11-3	O Chan
7	800	Chatham Island 9-11-3	
8	800	Chapels 6-11-3	Mr R Johnson
9	804	Fingery 9-11-3	Mr R Johnson
10	800	Salisbury 7-11-3	P Stone
11	800	Sey's Folly 9-11-3	Mr B. 10-11-3
12	800	Chapels prices 6-11-3	A Chamberlain
13	800	Princess Castle 6-11-3	
14	800	Shamrock 6-11-3	Mr B. 10-11-3
15	800	Quarrier 7-10-12	Mr Costello
16	802	Fine Lane 5-10-10	
15-B Fire Love, 3 Redcapper Castle, 5 Gollyon,			

3:45 NEWTON WILLIAMS HANDICAPCHA	
SE (E1:633, 3m 11 (5))	
4	003 Rashed Lord 9-10-17
5	004 Henry D 9-10-17
6	001 South Sea 9-10-17
7	002 Heart And Riller 9-10-10 Colin Price
8	448 Hailan Lord 9-10-10
9	449 Hailan Lord 9-10-10
11-8 Besses-on Sea 3 French Sea, 12 Hailan Lord	
4:15 ROSS-ON-WYE NOVICES' HURDLE (ON E1:572, 2m) (11)	
3	M-1 Cognitive Modifies 6-11-9 D Chinn
4	008 Dashed 11-11-4
5	009 Dashed 11-11-4
6	003 Fox And 5-11-9 M Bradburn
7	004 Fox And 5-11-9
8	005 Damselery Sea 5-11-4
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SEAVINGTON: Herts Lord of Dymock, Ad.
Rexar Lydden, Op: Canford Rose, Op: Whit-
Wood, R Op: London Apprentice, Main
Fadhurst.

SOUTH AND WEST WILT: Herts Sweet Bri-
gham, Herts + Chesk, L Op: Henry Chems, Op:
Silene Commor, Adv: Cornwallensis, IFPAC:
Rose D'Amour.

(B) 8-11-70
Mr P Grainger
10-11 (S ex) M Brown
9-2 Lovey
10-10-0
Mr S Sherwood
C Smith
Lucky's Parl. 4 Dr Popper.
E: (By Mandarin) 2.1
Scale. 325 Stary Shot, 4,
Lucky's Parl.

HANDICAP (\$641: 2r

Gary Marshall.
 Yone. Adj: Prince Amp
 Hunt: Bonny Members
 Supreme. Mdnc: Parita
 Anogue. Adj: Sansbrook
 Op: Courtneigh. R Op
 Summer Gladness.
 Adj: Chichester Bird. Adj
 Crazy Look. Op: Macturk
 Hunt: Parnham's Son Op
 r of Fun. PPOA: Funnist
 INTERLINGSHIRE: Hunt
 Brandy. L Op: Flying
 Aid. R Op: Nelson's
 tette.

SATURDAY
 Hunt: Red Marshal. R Op.
 Mark's Methans. L Op.
 Hunt: Gary Marshal.
 Yore: Adj: Prince Amp.
 Hunt: Benny Members.
 Supreme. Midn: Fanta.
 Snogus: Adj: Sanbrook.
 L Op: Courmash. R Op.
 Summer Gladness.
 Hunt: Chester Bard. Adj.
 Rally Look. Op: Mactum.
 Hunt: Penham's Son. Op.
 r of Fun. PPOA: Funnest.

LTS: Hunt: Sweet Bright
Op: Merry Chama Op:
Corramacora. PFOA

1

Lucky Friday, Mind: Monica's Quest.

VALE OF AYLESBURY: Numb: Hayscower Ady.
White Prince, L.Os: Richard, Yarnag, L.Os: Nity's
Girl, L.Os: Monochrome Mink, Numb: Little Princess Luna.

VALE OF LUNNE: Numb: Camp Hlt, Ady:
Cherryroot, L.Os: Fish Dead, Ady: Gold Prince,
R.Os: Troquea, Mind: Tryaghos.

WHEATLAND: Bochenan, Meyeole, Ady: Lay
the Trumo, OOs: Little Blaham, L.Os: Mayeta
Grescent, R.Os: Doranone, Numb: Pat Orley,
Numb: Goodwin.

WOODLAND PITCHLEY: Ady: Highgate Lady,
L.Os: Color Collector, Numb: Alia Erk,
Oos: Hippo, Numb: Nasty Return, Mind: Caposa.

INTERM: TPOA: Nasty Return, Mind: Caposa.

WHEELS: SIXTHS

7'S WINNERS

TRUCKOTT: Farmers: Four Tens, Q: Galic
Ochem; L Q: Phinnett; R Q: Small Tom. Adj:
Lucy Friday. Mide: Mochie's Quest.

VALE OF AYLESBURY: Hunt: Haytavor Adj:
White Paper. Q: Robin's Tango. L Q: Nitty's
Q: Q: Mochie's Man. Mide: In Tarnose.

VALE OF LURE: Hunt: Camp Hill Adj:
Chardoff. L Q: Fish Dead. Q: Gold Prince.
R Q: Troque. Mide: Trygosh.

WHEATLAND: Buckman, Maypole. Adj: Lay
the Trumps. Q: Little Blahem. L Q: Mochie's
Crescent. R Q: Dorendon. Mide: Pat Orlay.
Mide: Goodwin.

WOODLAND FITCHLEY: Adj: Houghton and

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Braes of Derwent at Morpeth (2.0);
Chiddingfold, Leconfield and
Cowdray at Midhurst (1.40); East
Kent at Aldington (2.0); Eggesson
at Bishopcleeve (2.15); Essex
Farmers at Marks Tey (2.0); Four
Burrow at Canborne (2.0); North
Cotswold at Springhill (2.0); Old
Berksire at Lockinge (2.0); South
Down and Eridge at Feathfield
(2.30); South Norths at Newark (2.0);
South Fembrakeshire at Tenby

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0 SHARON HARD
(m) (4)
11b Only Garguans
91b Critical Path 5
99b Bone Patrol (B)
81b Hard Bargain
4 Only Garguans. 11
11 Blue Patrol.

DANCUTE MAID
613: 2m) (10)
73-8 Notable 6-11-4
833 Pan Arctic 5-1
390 Queensway 6
6-10 Tender Angus
99p Full Of Love 5

Onslow and W
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 n Siro, Milan.
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Onslow and W
their second grou
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cter by a short n
emio d'Aprile o
n Siro, Milan.

John Lowe, the key, was in Newcastle on Saturday - Lak Luoc.

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HURDLE (E1,102)
 -10 _____ B Holly
 -0 _____ G McCourt
 and Bargain, 5 Critical
HURDLE (Div II)
 _____ P Murphy
 -15 _____ MON-FLANNERY
 -6 _____ P Double

Carson gained
three success in
when beating
in the £10,204
ten furlongs at
terday. Ivano,
Cecil trained
and a half

Carson gained three success in when beating in the £10,294 ten furlongs at Alderley. Ivano, South, trained

short head to
with the French
in the £14,411
Liberto (10f),
Lester Piggott,
eaten in four

100

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Kemptor Park
Haydock Park
Newcastle
Newton Abbot
Plymouth
Rampton

